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Hafa Adai!

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MVA running after BnB's

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has linked up with the Department of Finance and the Office of the Governor to go after what it describes as illegal lodging establishments that are operating around the island without paying taxes.

Despite the continuing need for additional rooms to accommodate the increasing number of tourists, MVA brought up concerns regarding what it says are illegal bed and breakfast establishments around the island.

"We need to have more rooms. We

See MVA on Page 4

FREE GLASSES

MICHAEL SANTOS

Man'amko gather around to receive their properly graded reading glasses from Lions Club members on Oct. 13 at the Office on Aging.

See story on Page 5

Graduation rate dips; drop out rates increase for SpEd

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The high school graduation rate for children with disabilities in the CNMI dipped slightly in fiscal year 2015-2016, according to Public School System Special Education director Suzanne Lizama.

During a presentation last Oct. 12 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Lizama said the program's graduation rate reached its peak at 82 percent in fiscal year 2014-'15. It, however, went down 2 percentage points the following fiscal year to 80 percent, which is fairly higher than its 66

See GRADUATION on Page 4

25 Days Before ELECTION DAY

NMI honors fallen firefighters

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres joined the nation in honoring firefighters and other emergency personnel who have died while in the line of duty. Torres and other administration officials attended a National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service yesterday at the San Jose Church on Saipan.

Torres said it is important to honor those who died in service. "I wanted to share how important it is to express gratitude and honor to those who have fallen in the line of duty and all those in public service."

"Nationally, firefighters and many other emergency personnel pay the

See NMI on Page 4

Rota Resort owners sue Rota casino commission

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The owner and president of Rota Resort and Country Club filed yesterday a lawsuit against the Rota Casino Gaming Commission and its commissioners for allegedly deeming their conditional casino license expired on July 15, 2016, during a "special meeting" that was done allegedly in violation of the Open Government Act.

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INSIDE

NATION
Two women claim Donald Trump touched them inappropriately in separate encounters.
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ASIA
Philippine President Rodrigo Dutertes craps joint exercises with the U.S. military.
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OFF THE WALL
Imaginative Brits have found a way to put cash to work.
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Local

Catholic faithful invited to grace Marian Exhibit

The first of hopefully many "hospitality Sundays" of the Legion of Mary was held on Oct. 9 at Tanapag Church. That day, they had the Marian Exhibit, which showcased the best of the Virgin Mary and offered refreshments for their participants soon after.

Legion of Mary president Julie Cunanan, with the help of the coordinator of mission operations Ernie Molina and Fr. Philippe Rolleon Jr., created the program that not only honors Mary but also allows aide for the people attending.

Last Sunday's mission offered free breakfast and religious items such as rosaries to its fellow parishioners.

When asked what would be the difference between this Sunday's event and the last, Cunanan replied, "This time we will offer the parishioners something we call Sunday mission, or medical mission, where there will be less than 10 nurses available to give the attendees flu shots, checkups for diabetes, high blood, and other medical conditions this Sunday. All of these procedures will be free along with free hair grooming from hairdressers coming on site."

Free religious items and breakfast will also be offered just like the last Sunday event. The program will be held this coming Sunday, Oct. 16, following the 8am mass and end at 12pm.

For more information about the mission, call Cunanan at 234-9226. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

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Man threatens to kill trader

Habitual offender Nestor Camacho Taitano was sentenced to one year in prison for threatening to kill a female storeowner with a machete and violating the conditions of his probation in a previous criminal conviction.

In a written issued Thursday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio sentenced the 41-year-old Taitano to six months imprisonment for disturbing the peace and six months in prison for violating the terms and conditions of his probation, with credit for 79 days of time served.

Taitano pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace in the 2016 case and admitted to violating the terms and conditions of his probation in the 2015 case as part of a plea deal.

According to the plea agreement, on July 23, 2016 on Saipan, Taitano approached the storeowner in a threatening manner while verbally threatening her. Frightened, the victim contacted the police.

In the 2015 case, Taitano pleaded guilty in January 2015 to criminal mischief and disturbing the peace. He has a remaining six months suspended sentence. He was placed on probation for one year.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato appeared as counsel for Taitano at the change of plea/sentencing hearing held on Tuesday. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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3 Diamonds wins $5,000 instantly!

Pictured are Kagman Market Store Owner, Mr. Bruce and NMSA Lottery Manager, Anicia Lisua during the presentation of the $5000 prize.

Congratulations to the latest $5000 instant cash winner playing the NMSA (Northern Marianas Sports Association) lottery. The lucky man won $5,000 on his birthday on Oct. 7 playing the 'Go Bananas' instant lottery game.

The winner, who wishes to remain anonymous, explained, "On the way home after I bought the tickets, I told my wife, you know I think this is the lucky ticket, but she didn't believe me. Then on my birthday I scratched it and found three diamond shapes in a row and won $5000 cash prize! When I showed my wife the winning ticket she completely freaked out! I thought to myself, I feel excited. This is the best birthday ever!"

You can buy your tickets for a chance to win all over the CNMI at a store near you. So far there have been over thirty five winners of $1000 and four $5000 winners. There are plenty more $1000 and $5000 tickets to be won. Try your luck. You have to be in it to win it so get your tickets now.

Torres commends Labor for collecting unpaid wages

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres lauded the Department of Labor's efforts to collect more than $1 million in unpaid wages owed employees by different companies. Labor has intensified its efforts to have business owners comply with rules and regulations when it comes to compensation.

Labor officials collected a total of $1,360,267 in unpaid wages and overtime from businesses that commit unlawful business practices. Torres said the unlawful practice of some employers also has an affect on the CNMI's economy, which is slowly coming out from years of little or no growth at all.

"The stability and growth potential of the CNMI's economy depend upon active participation by our workforce. The CNMI has a relatively small population and an even smaller available workforce population," added Torres.

Ensuring the workers' rights and labor opportunities of CNMI employees are among the other things Labor is monitoring.

"I recognize the diligence and hard work of the Department of Labor in ensuring compliance and fair labor practices as we move forward to ensure adequate and meaningful opportunities for all our workers," Torres said.

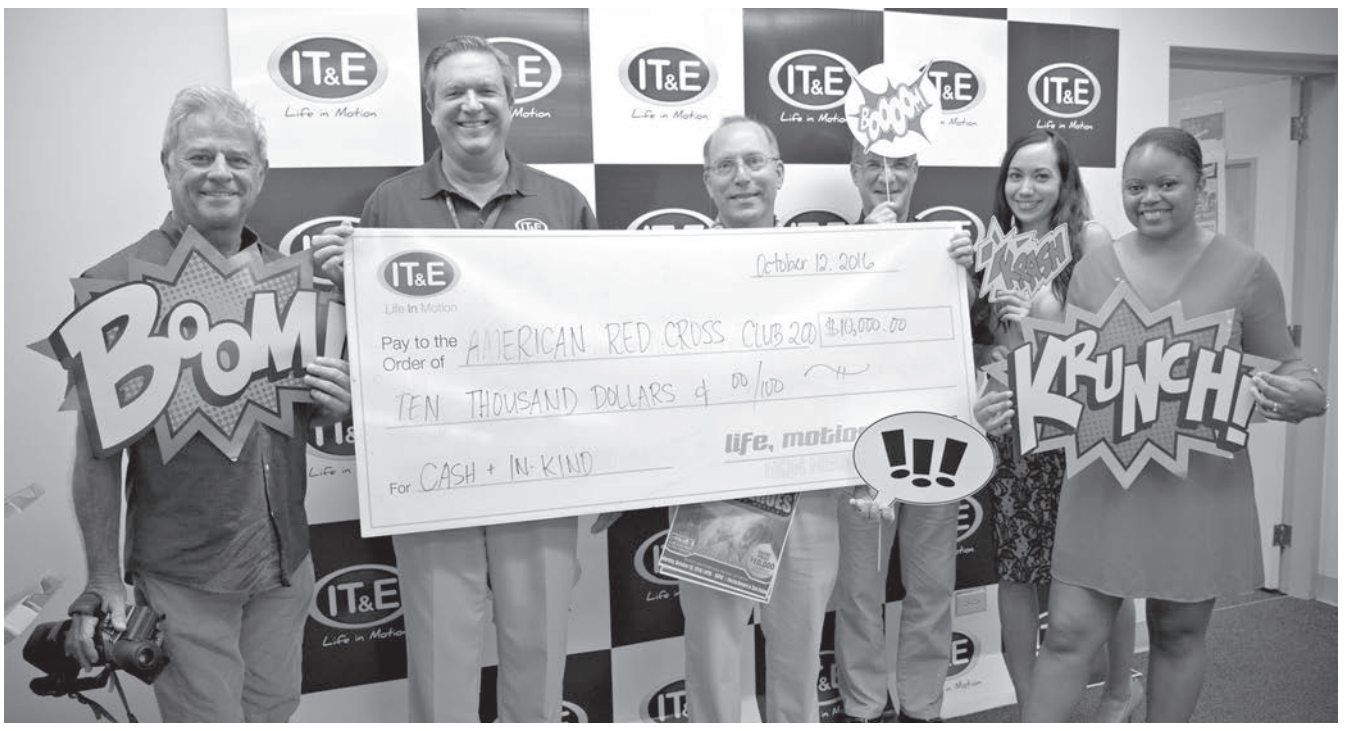
Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero has noted that economic development and workforce support are connected, that's why they increased the enforcement of labor laws and other regulations to make sure employers remain in compliance.

Workforce participation rates, submitting employers' reports, quarterly workforce listing, and presenting a workforce plan by prioritizing the hiring of qualified local applicants that's in line with the CNMI-Only Transitional Nonimmigrant Visa program are some of the activities Labor are ensuring the employers are in compliance with the labor laws.

Torres said Labor's renewed commitment in enforcing labor laws has instilled employee confidence and increased awareness of the employment rights of the employees.

"With these assurances and continuous community outreach, Labor has seen an increase in labor complaints and unpaid wage recoveries, holding businesses accountable and collecting for employees on their owed wages."

"The increase in mediating labor complaints has definitely improved as we move forward with our economy on the rebound," he said.



IT&E GIVES BACK
IT&E staff and management are all smiles as they present $10,000 in cash and in-kind donations to the American Red Cross CNMI Chapter Club 200. From left, Bob Coldeen, KSPN2 News; John Compton, IT&E chief operating officer; John Hirsh, ARC executive director; Hans Mickelson, IT&E sales & marketing manager; Patty McDonald, ARC Club 200 donations co-chair; and Nola Hix, ARC Club 200 donations chair.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MVA

From Page 1

really need to have high quality premium rooms, to actually attract high quality premium customers. Another concern that has been brought up to our attention are the bed and breakfast issue," said MVA managing director Chris Concepcion.

He said that there are numerous bed and breakfast establishments operating as hotels on Saipan without paying the hotel occupancy tax.

"I have met with the Department of Finance and the Governor's Office. They are putting an enforcement team to crack down on these illegal BnB operators," said Concepcion.

"They are definitely not paying into the hotel occupancy tax, but they are functioning as hotels. These people come in for 3-5 days, sometimes a month, and they don't pay the hotel occupancy tax. That cheats us of our funding," he said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres thinks the same.

"There is a task force and we have been meeting with respective members of the MVA and we are coming out with an enforcement task force on how to address the issues that we have before us," said Torres.

Torres did clarify that the aim of the task force was not to completely eradicate the illegal lodging establishments, as he sees these as additional rooms to serve tourists.

"They have to be taxed properly, so we're not saying don't do it. We're saying that it has to be taxed. If you own a BnB [bed and breakfast] and you fall in that category, we're not discouraging that. We're just encouraging that you pay the proper taxes, the hotel occupancy tax. Even if it is just a bed and breakfast establishment, you still have to pay tax," said Torres.

If you go to a certain website, and you search Saipan and put in a random date, you will see hundreds of rooms available for rent that are not hotels; they are houses and apartments. These are being converted into BnB's, which ideally are not for long-term stays. Vacation rentals are what they are, and they don't pay the taxes.

ROTA

From Page 1

SNM Corp., owner of Rota Resort and Country Club, and SNM president and chair Hee Kyun Cho, are suing the Rota Casino Gaming Commission, commission chair Joaquin S. Manglona, commission vice chair Francisco S. Calvo, and commission commissioners Mateo A. Santos and John William King.

SNMI and Cho, through counsel Robert T. Torres, asked the Superior Court to prevent the enforcement of any actions of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission.

Torres requested the court to prevent the commission from holding any further meeting or taking any further action related to SNM, in violation of the Commonwealth Code.

Torres moved the court to declare that the commission's special resolution as null and void.

Last Oct. 4, SNM received a copy of a resolution passed by the commission.

The resolution states that, "since the issuance of the conditional license on July 15, 2011, more than five years ago, there is still no casino and there is no evidence that anything is being done on this casino project as proposed by the SNM Corp. in its business plan."

The resolution further states that "the proposed project has not served the interest of our community."

The resolution also resolved that the commission has decided that the conditional casino license issued to SNM Corp. on July 15, 2011, expired on July 15, 2016.

Torres requested the court to declare that SNM's license granted by the Commission Resolution 2011-2 was issued on the date of or subsequent to the date of full payment of the corresponding casino license fee (Sept. 25, 2013), and does not expire until at least either Sept. 25, 2018 or Oct. 2, 2018.

SNM made an initial casino license fee payment in the amount of $200,000 to the Rota municipal treasurer on June 9, 2013.

SNM also made a further casino license fee payment in the amount of $200,000 to the Rota municipal treasurer.

The lawyer said the commission violated the Open Government Act by failing, among other things, to provide Cho and SNM notice of the special meeting, failing to provide them with notice of the agenda of such meeting, failing to afford them an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments in writing, on an agenda item of the special meeting.

Torres said the special resolution was enacted at a meeting that was not open to the public, and not held at a date fixed by law or statute.

Torres said the commission, through regulation, implemented a license fee scheme where a casino license for five years requires payment of a license fee of $400,000.

Torres asserted that the Commonwealth Code requires the commission to issue a casino license as of the date of payment of the license fee.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA board meeting on Oct. 18

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 18, 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Kagman High announcements

Calling all Kagman High School alumni, parents, stakeholders and community partners! This Friday, Oct. 14 2016, Kagman High School is open to the public to celebrate its Annual Cultural Day event from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. This year the cultures of Ponpei, Chuuk, Palau, and the CNMI will be in the spotlight.

Kagman High will be hosting the next Joint Kagman Schools PTSA at Chacha Oceanview Middle school on Oct. 20, from 5pm to 6pm. The meeting is for parents of all children who attend any of the three Kagman schools: KagES, COVMS or KHS. ***(PR)***

NMI

From Page 1

ultimate sacrifice while carrying out their calling and profession," he added

Last month, Torres signed a proclamation declaring Oct. 8 as National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service Day. He asked the community to continue the observance and recognition of October as Fire Prevention, and Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Torres also encouraged the community to support separate boot drives by the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, and the Commonwealth Cancer Association in the last two Thursdays of the month.

Firefighters are always exposed to carbon monoxide that causes heart attack, cancer, chronic respiratory disease, hepatitis B and C, and stress. A total of 112 firefighters died in the U.S. last year while serving their respective communities. Since 1950, 683 firefighters had already succumbed to cancer.

The U.S. President and Congress declared an annual day of commemoration to honor firefighters and emergency services personnel who put their lives on the line whenever they respond to fires in buildings, forests, or planes.

GRADUATION

From Page 1

percent target.

Dropout rates for fiscal 2014-'15 was at 4.45 percent, just 0.45 percent more than the target, 4 percent, while a significant 7.46 percent of high school students with disabilities were dropping out of school in fiscal year '15-'16; the target for the year was 3 percent. A significant 3.01-percentage point jump in drop out rates within one year is a concern for PSS.

The Special Education State Performance Plan is required of individuals under the Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, which evaluates efforts of public agents to provide early intervention, special education, and related services to those that are in need.

Despite this, Lizama shared that overall, the year was good, having served a total of 916 students, with 88 students in early childhood (3-5 years old) and 828 students aged 6 to 21.

Man'amko get reading glasses

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club celebrated its Worldwide Week of Service for Sight by giving away free reading glasses to the Aging Center yesterday. The glasses varied from grades +0.75 to +4.0 and were distributed by Lions Club members.

Attending the event were Saipan Fil-American Lions Club president Annamae Adaza, Lions Club zone chair Mario Mayuga, Lions Club regional chair Ladyvir Canape, Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, and Man'amko Council president Rita Reyes.

Adaza said: "It feels good to be a part of an organization that's really worldwide in terms of community service. For us, we're just trying to help the CNMI in our own little ways. As our motto says: 'We serve' so that's what we're doing."

Adaza has been a member of the Lions Club for six years now.

Manglona thanked Adaza and her group for the donation of reading glasses. "We are always blessed and appreciative to have groups in the community…spending their time to come over here and make contributions to our elderly."

Manglona has been working with the Office on Aging for over 14 years, about four years as its director.

One *man'amko*, Maria Salinas, said, "I think it is very generous that they're [Lions Club] is doing this because, believe it or not, at this age the *man'amko* really do need reading glasses. They wouldn't know it, but they do need them."

The Lions Club was able to distribute 143 reading glasses to the *man'amko* in the center as well as its staff. Other than local community projects, the Lions Club is also preparing to celebrate its 100th year of establishment from June 30 to July 4 in Chicago's international convention. ***(Michael Santos)***

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Sichuan Agriculture Development & Investment Co. chief executive officer and chairman Jing Dengyang, fourth from left, led his team in meeting Marianas Visitors Authority officials led by deputy managing director Judy Torres, fifth from right, Tuesday afternoon. They are also joined by Best Sunshine International marketing director Donghua Yao. BSI's parent company, Imperial Pacific Holdings International, invited the investors to visit Saipan for potential expansion projects.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Their breakthrough in using applied agricultural scientific technology as seen in this vast plantation.

Visiting investors: NMI can be modern agriculture hub

The future of agriculture is driven by advancements and innovations in farming—and the NMI can be a hub for modern agriculture, according to executives of Sichuan Agriculture Development and Investment Co. Ltd.

The delegation arrived on Saipan this week, exploring the island as a potential site for its multimillion-dollar investments and expansion plan. Sichuan Agriculture Development and Investment Co. Ltd. is primarily engaged in agriculture investment, tourism projects, and high-end resort and hotel development projects.

It operates several major projects that include the Nancong Jinxiu Garden (1,200 hectares), Chengdu Sansheng Oicai Fiel (1,200 hectares), Chongzhou PanGu Agriculture (4,000 hectares), and Suining County Melody Fiel (780 hectares).

They are now working on a 1,500-hectare Sichuan Mianyang Xianyou Flower Island Project and Sichuan Suining Chinese Garden Project, two groundbreaking projectsy.

The group also built the leading hydroponics farms in Israel and Holland.

Chief executive officer and chair Jing Dengyang leads Sichuan Agriculture Development and Investment Co. Ltd. executives that include Yu Kaiyuan, president; Dr. Jeannie Yi, head of corporate development; Luo Xiaohui, director; Wen Zhongrong, general manager for tourism hotel development, and Peng Hongquan, director of food and beverage.

"Agriculture is very important. It's for our health, wellness, and basic living needs. This is especially true for Saipan," Jing said.

Yi said: "Saipan is an ideal location for high tech farming."

Sichuan Agriculture Development and Investment Co. Ltd. was invited by Imperial Pacific Holdings International, the Hong Kong-based investment company, to explore the potential in agriculture, other tourism-related projects including resort-hotel development in the onset of the islands' ongoing economic development.

"Saipan is the most beautiful (of all the places we've visited). And two things are most especially vital for tourism growth: a good quality locally-sourced farm/agriculture products and good infrastructure," Jing noted. "What I can bring is investing toward the promotion of health and wellness of our local residents and the visitors to the islands. As an investor, I would hope that [the CNMI] government would assist us in the process."

Jing said the assistance extended to his group through various meetings with heads

See VISITING on Next Page

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10/2 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/3	10/4 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/5 Buffet Lunch $14 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/6	10/7 Buffet Lunch $14 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/1 & 10/8 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*
10/9 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/10	10/11 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/12 Buffet Lunch $14 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/13	10/14 Buffet Lunch $14 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/15 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*
10/16 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/17	10/18 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/19 Buffet Lunch $14 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/20	10/21 Buffet Lunch $14 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/22 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*
10/23 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/24	10/25 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/26 Buffet Lunch $14 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/27	10/28 Buffet Lunch $14 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/29 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*
10/30 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	10/31					

* *Our **"Dolphin"** restaurant (10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan) has reopened as A-La-Carte restaurant. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch Menu ($8~) and authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki for your dinner ($35). "Spectacular Ocean view and Sunset!" Open time: Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Last Order: 1:30pm / Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm Last Order : 8:30pm*

* ***"Starlight BBQ"** Dinner Buffet Location: Poolside Price: Reg. AD $39 CH: $19 (Local: AD $35/ CH $17) Business hrs: 6:00-9:00pm Menu: " All you can eat & drink" - beers, red & white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.*

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Rota forming task force against 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROTA—Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig believes the methamphetamine or "ice" problem on the island is not alarming, but as a preventive move they are forming an anti-drug task force. "I haven't heard anything that will alarm me," said Atalig when asked during an interview if there is an "ice" problem on Rota.

The mayor disclosed that he just had a meeting with secretaries and local resident directors, in which he recommended an anti-drug task force on the island.

"We are heading in that direction and I believe beginning of this month we are going to get this thing in full swing," Atalig said. "The idea here is let's be in a preventive mood rather than on a protective mood."

On crimes, Atalig said they really don't have any crime.

"If there is any crime, basically it's internal…within the family," he added.

The mayor said they implement a lot of programs for their youths.

He cited that recently they had some basketball team from Saipan play with their island's basketball players.

"The good thing about that is bringing them to our island of Rota, so that our players in Rota can feel the increased competitiveness of other teams aside from themselves," Atalig said.

Saipan Tribune conducted last week random interviews with residents and foreign workers on Rota and they all agreed that there is no crime against property or persons and that they just leave their cars open wherever they go.

In a separate interview, Rota Municipal Council chair George Ogo Hocog said there may be an "ice" problem on the island but it's not as bad as other places.

"It's not really bad. But if we don't take care of it, its going to increase," Hocog said. "I heard some people here are using 'ice' but I never see them using, but I can feel."

Hocog said what they are trying to do is form a task force against drugs and "ice."

He said there is a need to increase their K9 activity.

Hocog said right now, the island does not have a dog checking for illegal drugs, mostly coming from Saipan.

VISITING

From Page 7

of offices and agencies reflect how the government is "committed toward supporting good investors keen on helping build the economy."

During the meetings, the investors were provided with information and other form of assistance with their intent toward investing a modern agriculture and tourism-related projects on Saipan.

Their goal, according to Jing, is to help lower the cost of farm produce on island and at the same time promoting healthy living.

"I am very grateful to Imperial Pacific Holdings International because they have been the bridge for us to come here to Saipan. We've come with the purpose to build and beautify Saipan even more so—and thank you Best Sunshine for this opportunity," Jing said.

Jing started as an investor focused on Chinese investment banking over 25 years ago and furthered his career by engaging in hotel business some 15 years ago. It was not until seven years ago when Jing along with his business partner and president of Sichuan Agriculture Development & Investment Yu Kaiyuan started Sichuan Agriculture High Tech Farm. ***(PR)***

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Learn how to start a business with free seminar

Orrin Pharmin, business advisor and director of the CNMI Small Business Development Center, recently talked to students in Northern Marianas College's MG231 Intro to Business Class taught by Bobbie Hunter about the benefits of becoming an entrepreneur.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Department of Commerce's CNMI Small Business Development Center, through the Small Business Administration, will be offering a free business seminar "How to Start A Business" by Orrin Pharmin from 10am to 12pm today, Oct. 14, 2016, at the Northern Marianas College (Room D1).

This workshop will help individuals learn everything they will need to get started, including an introduction to business plans and the importance of preparing one; exploring the legal forms of business (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, and limited liability partnership/company) and which one is right for your business needs; local or federal licensing requirements for the business. Participant will be able to obtain vital information and resources to start and own a business. This training will take the mystery out of starting a business and help participants better evaluate their business idea.

This seminar is brought to you by the CNMI SBDC and the Northern Marianas College with the support of the Commonwealth Development Authority, CNMI Department of Commerce, and the KKMP radio station.

Deadline to pre-register is one business day before the seminar at 12pm. Seating is limited so advanced registration is required (this is on a first come, first serve basis). Walk-ins are allowed and granted on space availability.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center is a member of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network. Its mission is to support the growth and economic development of the U.S. affiliated islands in the Western Pacific by providing free one-on-one, confidential business counseling and high quality training to existing and prospective small businesses.

For more information about registering for this seminar, contact Lorie Pangilinan at lorie@pacificsbdc.com or the CNMI SBDC Office in the Department of Commerce at (670) 664-3018/3000 or you can simply register online at http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events. ***(CNMI SBDC PR)***

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DPS concerned with illegal handguns

The unknown number of illegal and unlicensed handguns out on the streets in the CNMI is a major concern for the Department of Public Safety, as unlicensed handguns pose a great risk to the life of law enforcers and residents, according to DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero.

That's why the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is investing more in the safety of all law enforcers, most especially police officers that are on duty or patrolling the streets. Guerrero and other DPS personnel presented to Torres the first batch of new bulletproof vests that will be issued to their police officers.

"It is the number of illegal handguns that is our biggest concern at DPS. Those handguns that are out on the streets, that is one reason why the governor pushed for these vests. These vests can protect our officers from handguns," said Guerrero in Wednesday's presentation at the Governor's Office conference room.

Torres said the vests would give roving police officers extra protection when they are on patrol, whether on foot or using their vehicles. "It is for their safety and protection whenever they go out and work. These vests would protect them if there are any untoward incident," said Guerrero

He said although officials don't want any shooting incidents to happen in the CNMI, the vests are for precautionary measures. "We want to make it as strict as possible, the application for handguns. In case there are incidents where they are being shot at. In any event, they have something to protect them."

Guerrero said they were also expecting a lot of applications for licenses to own handguns by private individuals after the U.S. District Court for the NMI early this year declared as unconstitutional the CNMI's gun control law that prohibits residents from possessing handguns for self-defense purposes.

"Contrary to what we expected…that there would be an increase in the applications for permit to own handguns, there are only six applicants so far," Guerrero said.

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security bought 160 vests through federal funds and donated 10 extra vests to DPS. The vests were issued yesterday to police officers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The vests cost about $100,000 in all.

Customs officials, the ports police, Fish and Wildlife personnel, and CNMI Judiciary marshals would also get bulletproof vests.

Guerrero said they also have seven new patrol cars with eight more that were ordered. Rota DPS will get two vehicles while Tinian DPS will buy their vehicles since they have their own funds.

"The new vehicles are in line with the governor's efforts to improve public safety."

"There are more in the works as far as protecting our police officers [is concerned]. We can live even with limited resources but the governor is supporting what DPS needs." ***(Jon Perez)***

Holiday on Election Day

Pursuant to Title 1 Division 6 Section 6508 of the Commonwealth Code and as stated in Public Law 12-18, Nov. 8, which is designated as Election Day, shall be a legal holiday within the Commonwealth. This is according to a department memo issued by Go. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday. ***(PR)***

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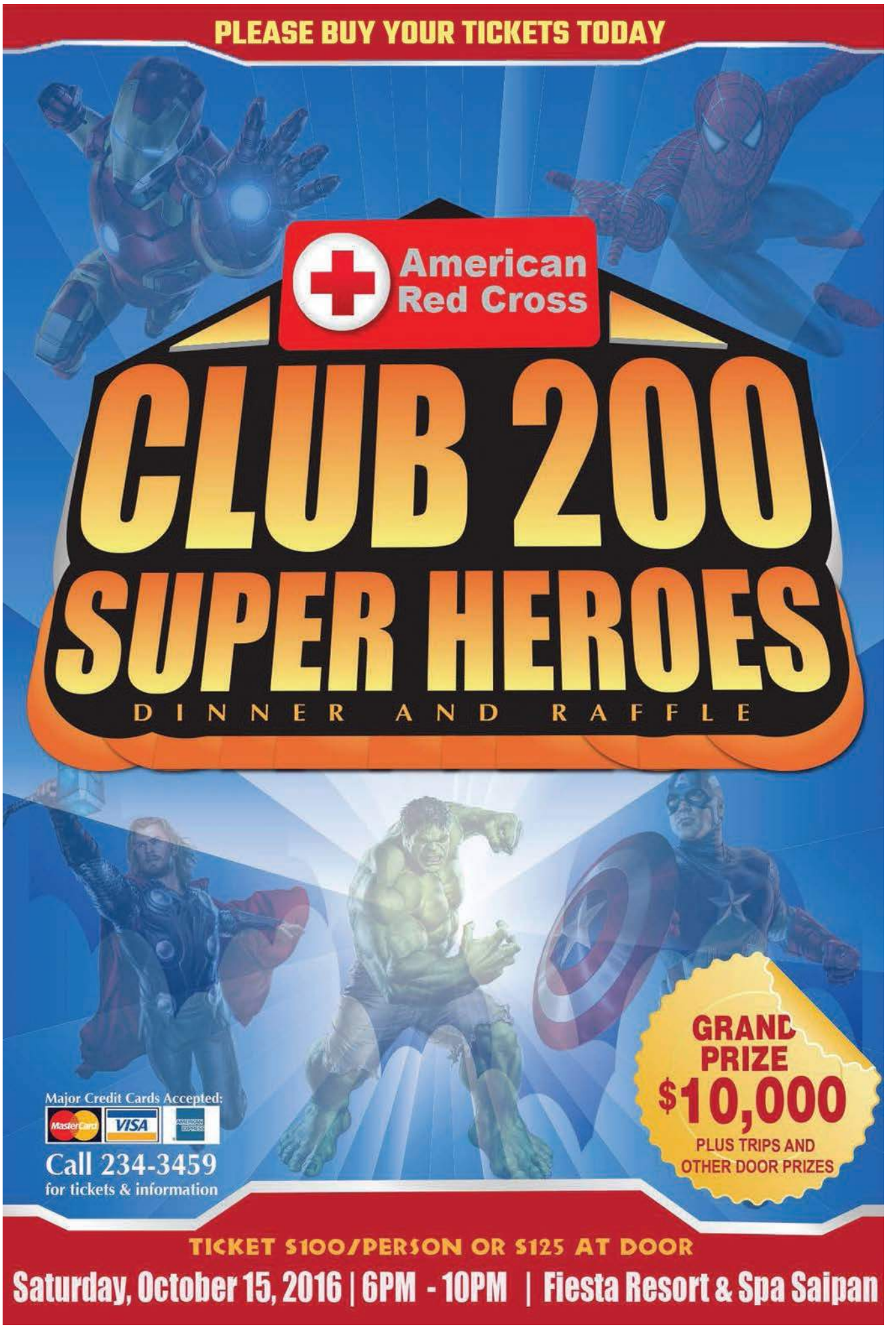
Triple J Saipan donates $10K to Red Cross

Triple J Saipan, Inc. officials, led by chairman and CEO Robert H. Jones, donate $10,000 to the American Red Cross NMI Chapter at the Surf Club grand opening on Oct. 9.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO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Triple J Saipan, Inc. officials led by chairman and CEO Robert H. Jones gave $10,000 to the American Red Cross NMI Chapter at the Surf Club grand opening on Oct. 9.

"Our grand opening was not only to celebrate Surf Club, but to honor our local employees as well as support the American Red Cross. The Red Cross does amazing things for the CNMI and we are happy to support this incredible organization," said Jones.

Receiving the check were Red Cross executive director John Hirsh and board members Nola Hix and Larry Lee. The donation was intended to benefit Club 200, the American Red Cross' major fundraising event with a grand prize of $10,000 to be held on Oct. 15, 2016.

"Triple J has been instrumental to us in the past years," said Hix. "We love Triple J!"

Jones was joined at the check presentation by his wife, Margaret Jones, treasurer of Triple J Enterprises; Jeff Jones, president and COO of Triple J Enterprises; Jay Jones, senior vice president; Dan Murrell, senior vice president and corporate secretary with wife Judy Jones Murrell; and Mike Sablan, vice president of Finance and Business Administration

Triple J also honored its local management staff such as Chris Duenas, CFO; Mike Sablan, VP of Finance and Business Administration; Frank Ada, director of Human Resources; Jay Santos, GM of Five Star Wholesale Foods and Truckload store; Alex Camacho, GM of Hertz Rental Car Saipan; Perry Inos Jr., Business Development manager; Sophie Dela Cruz, leasing manager of Saipan Comfort Homes and Sandy Beach Homes; Ben Lizama, Triple J Motors sales manager; Herman Guerrero, Bubba Gump assistant general manager; Dan Salas, Bubba Gump executive chef; Vinson Deleon Guerrero, Bubba Gump sous chef; and Geraldine Sasamoto, Bubba Gump retail manager

"With five restaurants, and four other affiliated businesses as well as our hotel opening and Outback coming soon, there are many high-level, skilled positions becoming available in the next few years. It is essential to our business to hire talented local individuals," said Ada.

The Triple J family of businesses include Surf Club, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Truong's, Hertz Rent-a-Car Saipan, Five Star Wholesale, Truckload Store, Triple J Motors, Sandy Beach Homes, and coming soon, Saipan Comfort Homes, Outback Steakhouse and Surf Rider Hotel. ***(PR)***

Applicants sought for Live Your Dream award

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Soroptimist International Club NMI Chapter is inviting the public to their next event, "Live Your Dream," which aims to support the college education of a full-time mother. "Live Your Dream" is set to take place on Nov. 5 at Kanoa Resort Saipan. The event's highlight is the awarding of the Live Your Dream Award, which aims to financially support the awardees' family while the mother attends college.

Jill Arenovski, chairperson of Soroptimist International's Way and Means Committee, highlighted the club's activities during the Rotary Club Saipan's meeting last Oct 11 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"Our club was chartered here four years ago. On Nov. 5 we would be having our charter celebration and 'Live you Dream' award where we award a woman attending college primary financial support for her family," said Arenovski.

Arenovski said the Soroptimist Club would be processing applicants before Oct. 15.

"We advertise this fairly aggressively, and we've contacted [women who might] possibly be interested. Our biggest success here was at NMC. Over the course of a weekend, a whole inbox of women wanted to find out about it. I've already gotten two applications and the deadline is not until Oct. 15. We're really proud that people are getting to know this club and that word is getting out there," said Arenovski. She said that past recipients of the award will be present at the Nov. 5 event.

She said the goal of the club is to empower women through education. The club does projects that support the women's shelter. Another project of the Soroptimists are the donation of books to the library at Kagman.

Arenovski said a local craft fair would also be present on Nov. 5, and that those that wish to go to the craft fair are welcome.

The "Live Your Dream" event is a wine-tasting event and also the charter celebration of Soroptimist Club. It will last from 6pm to 8:30pm at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort. Tickets are priced at $40, while tables for six are priced at $200. Those interested in reserving a table for six must contact Arenovski at soroptimistnmi@gmail.com.

Beer would also be served.

Those interested in applying for the award may apply through Facebook before Oct. 15, at "Soroptimist Int. of Northern Mariana Islands."

Hawaii agency opposes rule change for foreign fishermen

HONOLULU (AP)—In a posting dealing with undocumented foreign fishermen in Hawaii, the state Department of Aquatic Resources is recommending that a board deciding on rule changes for commercial fishing licenses deny the petition.

The petition asks for rule changes that include certifying that the license applicant understands and has read the document. Undocumented foreign fishermen who work in the fleet often do not read, write or understand English or the documents they are signing, the petitioners said Wednesday.

In a document posted on a state website, signed by Bruce Anderson, the administrator for the Division of Aquatic Resources, officials recommend denying the rule changes because the request focuses on labor issues that are outside the department's jurisdiction.

The recommendation states that the change is not needed because the applicant would be required to comply with all current laws.

Election Precinct II – Club
Committee to Re-elect Demapan/Sablan
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 502695
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Apolonia K. Nepaia, Treasurer
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TO FAMILIES AND FRIENDS IN THE CNMI, MOST ESPECIALLY THOSE IN PRECINCT II

Words alone cannot express the gratitude that is due to each and every one of you who have contributed to the overwhelming victory for three (3) terms of the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives Ralph Sablan Demapan and the Honorable Chairman of the Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation John Paul Sablan's (Pacho) two (2) terms in Election Precinct II. Many THANKS (UN DANKULU NA SI YUUS MA'ASE) to everyone who has helped in the past, and the hundreds who have opened their homes and their hearts for their continued re-election and for the trust and confidence with their leadership.

I am proud to have been chosen as their new Chairman for this election year. I see them both to be consistent and mature in facing the problems and issues that concerns each and everyone of us. I humbly ask for your continued help and support for their re-election on November 8, 2016.

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Chairman

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Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents *Dracula*

Next weekend and just in time for Halloween, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club is gearing up for its last production, *Dracula*, by Hamilton Deane and John L. Balderstonf from Bram Stoker's novel. The play is being directed by club veteran and senior Brianna Hunter and stars Zeno Deleon Guerrero, another club veteran and senior, as the title character.

Hunter has established herself as one of the leading actresses at the school, having played lead roles in last December's *White Christmas* and in 2014's *The Little Mermaid*. This production, however, will be her first time offstage as the director.

"As an actor, you're always the one taking direction from the director and their vision about how to tell the story. I finally wanted to be in that position, to see my vision and my story, come to life," she said.

Asked about what her vision is, Hunter said, "My vision is how *Dracula* is about who people become as they endure a horrific process. Likewise, I want the audience to reflect on how they develop when they face similar situations."

Like Hunter, Deleon Guerrero has been active in the Theatre Club for many years, but unlike Hunter, he has mostly stayed backstage as the floor manager for numerous productions. *Dracula* marks his return to the stage as an actor, something he is very excited about. When asked about why he agreed to get back on stage, he said, "It's my senior year, and I didn't want to regret not taking up this opportunity."

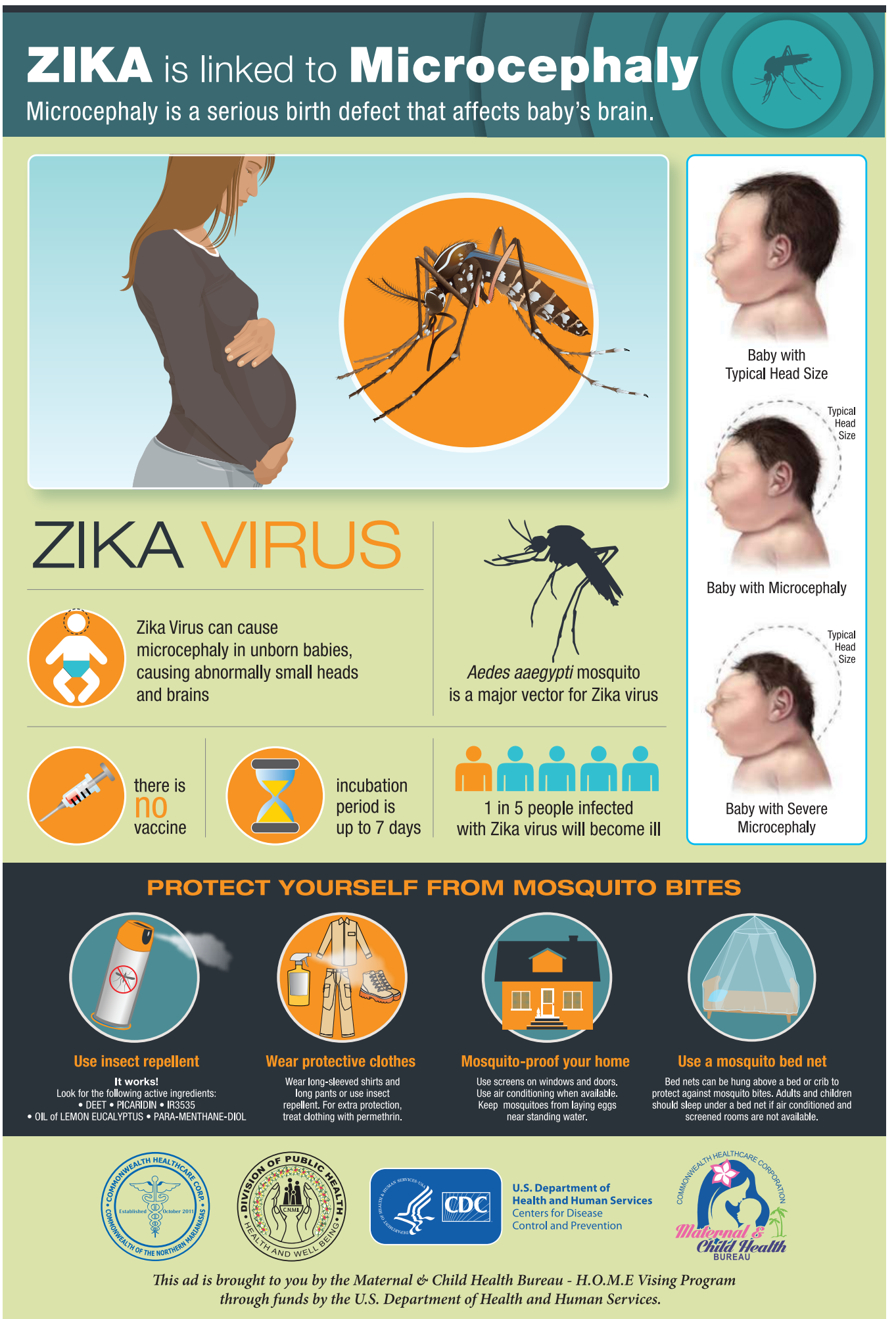
Regarding playing such an iconic role, he said, "It's a lot of pressure, especially since my personality is such a polar opposite to Dracula's character. But it's been fun to tap into my dark side to play this role."

The production also features Monica Usi as Lucy Seward, Dracula's love interest, Jose Castro as John Harker, Lucy's fiancé, and Michael Ortizo as the iconic nemesis of Dracula, Professor Van Helsing. Also featured in the production are Jeff Melchor as Doctor Seward, the father of Lucy, Kelvin Cepeda as Renfield, Jonelle Toskas as Mrs. Wells, and William Minami as Butterworth.

Dracula will be performed on Friday, Oct. 21, and Saturday, Oct. 22, at Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Island's Club. Doors open at 6:30pmand tickets are $15 for premium front row seating and $5 for general admission. Tickets are available at the Mount Carmel School Business Office. Due to limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is recommended. Due to mature content, adult discretion is advised. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit mountcarmelsaipan.com. *Dracula* is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. ***(MCS)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Zeno Deleon Guerrero, center, will play the lead title character in Mount Carmel School Theatre Club's production of *Dracula*. The show is directed by Brianna Hunter, left, and also stars Monica Usi, right, as Lucy Seward, the love interest of Dracula.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EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

THE CNMI DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY ISSUES THE FOLLOWING

MORATORIUM NOTICE on

N.M.I. ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 80 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, SUB-CHAPTER 80-20.1 EMPLOYMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS § 80-20.1-210 (C) (3) Exemptions from Workforce Participation § 80-20.1-215 (b) Particular Construction Project. Exemptions issued prior to this notice remains in effect until their expiration date.

This moratorium notice shall be in effect until such time that the CNMI Secretary of Labor publishes a new notice on this matter.

1ST CNMI BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Promoting & Embracing Health and Wellness Throughout our Lifespan

When: Monday, October 24, 2016 - Thursday, October 27, 2016
Where: World Resort, Taga Ballroom
Time: 8:00am to 4:00pm

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This message is brought to you by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration with the CHCC: Community Guidance Center.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 205

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EDITORIAL

US support for Saudi war on Yemen must end

Saudi Arabia's air strikes on a funeral in Yemen Saturday, killing at least 140, should be the last straw in America's support of the kingdom in its intra-Islamic, Sunni vs. Shiite war in that tragic country.

The Saudis took the occasion of a funeral in Sana, the Yemeni capital, of a patriarch of a large, prominent family to carry out a three-wave bombing attack on the hall where the ceremony was being held.

One argument that President Barack Obama's administration uses to sustain America's policy of continued support for the Saudi-led coalition is that the intelligence the United States provides its air war against Yemen enables its planes to be more precise in hitting military rather than civilian targets. What that line of argument would lead to this time is either that it isn't an accurate description of what is occurring, or that U.S. intelligence helped the Saudis target the attack on the funeral. Neither "explanation" is acceptable to American principles.

What is likely more accurate is to refer to the fact that the United States has sold the Saudis and the other Sunni Persian Gulf Arab states the aircraft and technology that they are using to wage war against the Shiite Houthis in Yemen. The figure for sales to the Saudis is $100 billion during the Obama years. Companies profiting from the sales include Boeing, General Dynamics and United Technologies. The Department of Defense has yet to assure there are no U.S. co-pilots in the Saudi aircraft carrying out attacks in Yemen.

The other argument used to justify continued U.S. support of the Saudis in their intra-Islamic war is that America is placating the kingdom, based on its opposition to the Iran nuclear agreement concluded last year. The Shiite Islamic republic exchanged its nuclear program for the immediate and middle future in return for an alleviation of economic and financial international sanctions against it.

Unfortunately, at this time, Yemenis—citizens of the poorest country in the Mideast—are paying the price in blood to please the Saudis and their theocratic regime for the Iran deal.

Saturday's slaughter makes it clear that the time is long since past when the United States should stop using U.S. companies' arms sales and defense of the Iran deal as reasons to continue to help Saudi Sunnis slaughter Yemenis, even if they are supported to a degree by Iran. A lethal attack on a funeral is simply an atrocity that qualifies as a war crime. The United States should disassociate itself from Saudi war-making quickly: Cancel the contracts if that is what is required to end U.S. involvement in this war.

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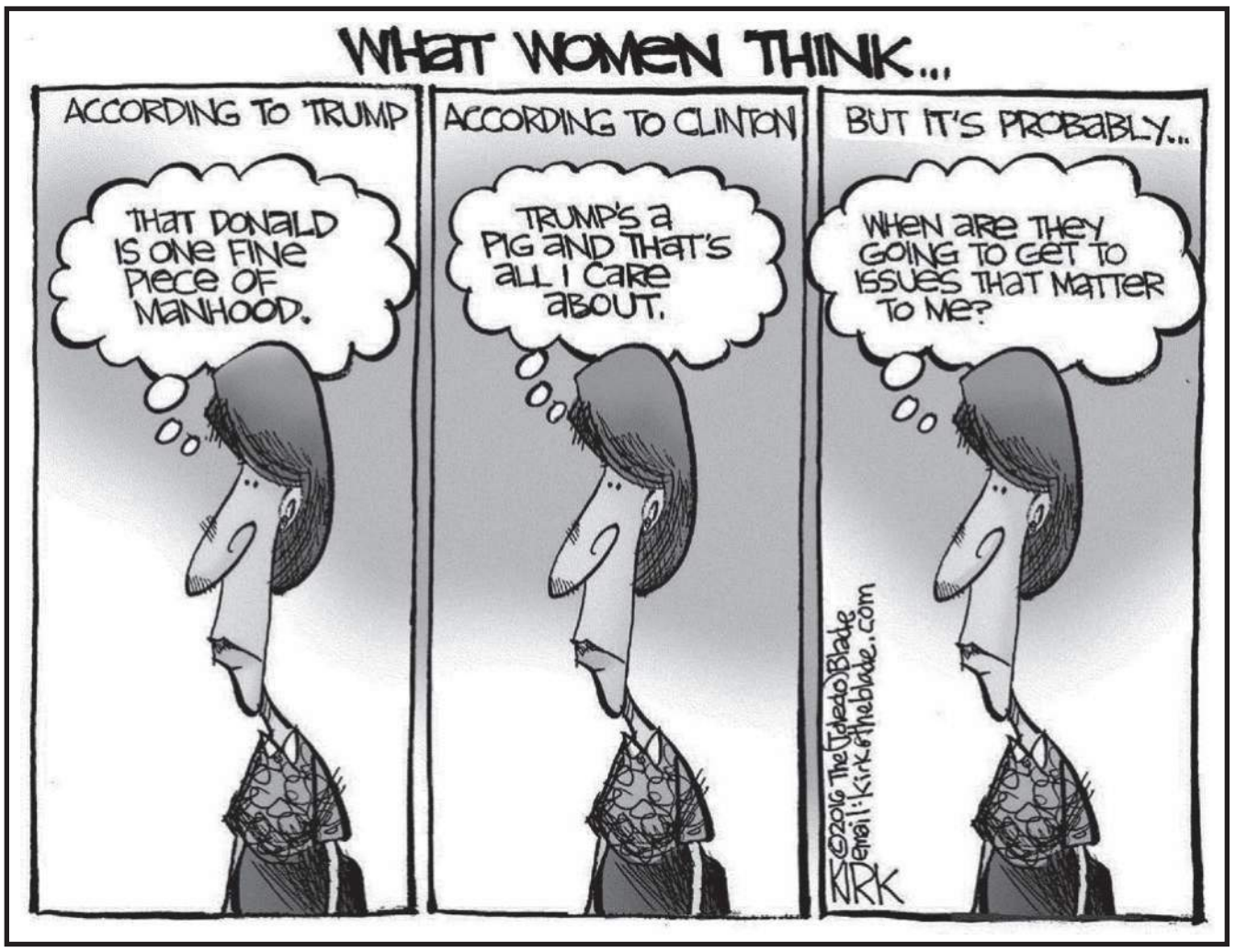
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Trump finally hit GOP leaders where they live

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

The sorry saga of the Republican Party's fitful embrace of Donald Trump can best be told by borrowing an old template originally shaped by a faraway Protestant pastor who wanted to tell a very different story in a very different era.

Sadly, the old template works all too well, adding a context of rarely spoken truth to a Trump story we all figured we knew. (We'll get to that Protestant pastor who created it later.)

Here's our Tale of Trump, as shaped by that wise theologian:

First Trump villainized the Mexicans. (On day one, as he announced he was running for president, he called Mexicans who illegally enter the United States criminals and rapists.)

And the GOP's famous leaders went along. Because the GOP leaders weren't Mexicans and neither were their prime backers or big-money givers. Besides, fed-up voters of all persuasions were cheering Trump's anti-Mexican tough talk.

Then Trump ridiculed the physically disabled. He sneeringly mocked the severe disability of a journalist who displeased him.

And the GOP's famous leaders let it go. Because Trump's soulless mockery still didn't reach into their homes.

Then Trump began heaping praise upon Russia's Vladimir Putin—despite Russia's military adventurism in Ukraine and propping up of Syria's dictator. And Trump railed against Muslim Americans—even the Gold Star Muslim American parents whose son gave his life to protect fellow soldiers.

And the GOP's luminaries mostly looked the other way. Because Trump was winning their Republican presidential primaries.

Then Trump repeatedly made news for insulting women he considered overweight or not pretty enough. He even suggested Fox News debate moderator Megyn Kelly might have been bleeding from her wherever.

And GOP leaders got away with saying little and trying to just look the other way. Because, after all, Republican voters seemed entertained by Trump's alternating fits of rage and outrage.

If any of that seems familiar, it is because it is a modernization of a template crafted more than 70 years ago, in Germany, by the Rev. Martin Niemoller, who was an outspoken opponent of Nazism. Parallels that reach back into that era are almost always unfair and politically wrong—and we aren't drawing any parallel to that evil era. But Niemoller's poetic analysis left us a bracing reminder of the human condition: we tend to look the other way, even when we know something is wrong—as long as we can rationalize that it really isn't about us.

So he famously wrote: "First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—/ Because I was not a Socialist. ... Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—/ Because I was not a Jew. / Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."

But last week, we fortunately broke through the shackles of Pastor Niemoller's template. We liberated ourselves from humanity's worst instincts, perhaps, thanks to a politically stunning event—the leak of the Video Heard 'Round the World.

By now, all the planet's cognoscenti have heard the best and worst bits of the "Access Hollywood" outtakes from 2005: Trump is stupidly bragging (while wearing a live microphone!) that he gets away with all sorts of acts against women because he is "a star." He said he could do anything—grab them by the privates and so on.

Here in the USA, scores of prominent Republicans began whipping out press releases explaining they had mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, granddaughters—and that they could no longer justify voting for Trump to the females in their lives. GOP superstars were saying they won't vote for Trump. House Speaker Paul Ryan stopped short of that but told his colleagues he won't defend Trump any more—he'll just work to elect a Republican Congress.

Now this: An article in the Christianity Today magazine, founded by the late Rev. Billy Graham, reported this week that "there has been little public movement among his leading evangelical supporters and detractors." It went on to report: "One of the most notable reactions to Trump's lewd comments came from Harvest Bible Chapel pastor James MacDonald, a member of Trump's evangelical advisory council. ... Over the weekend, MacDonald denounced Trump's 'misogynistic trash that reveals a man to be lecherous and worthless,' according to email excerpts published with MacDonald's permission by CT (Christianity Today) blogger Ed Stetzer.

"'I cannot and will not offer help to a man who believes this kind of talk a minor error,' wrote MacDonald. He later noted, 'No more defending Mr. Trump as simply foolish or loose lipped.'"

Trump's obscene conduct has finally penetrated the homes and lives of the Republican leaders in ways that even the worst and most soulless of his past words and deeds apparently did not.

Breakfast for lunch

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Today I'll ponder an American success story that is also a part of daily life on Saipan. It's a tale that has been mentioned by *Time* magazine, the *Washington Post*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, among other big names. It's high time the authoritative voice of the *Saipan Tribune* was added to the mix. So we turn our attention to that icon of culinary commercialization, the Egg McMuffin.

The Egg McMuffin, a breakfast sandwich by McDonald's, has been around for over 40 years. In that regard, then, it's old news.

It had a second debut of sorts last year when McDonald's announced that it would offer some breakfast items (including the McMuffin) at all business hours in American markets. This was a big deal in business news because fast food is a major industry and McDonald's is a major player.

Money, not eating, was the reason for the buzz.

When this business news hit the world, I wondered if Saipan would be considered an "American market" for the purpose of Egg McMuffin availability.

Eating, not money, was the reason for my interest.

Fortunately, the McDonald's in Gualo Rai does, indeed, serve the Egg McMuffin outside of breakfast hours. The Garapan McDonald's, by contrast, still keeps the McMuffin strictly in the breakfast slot. Anyway, if you need an Egg McMuffin, now you know how to get your fix.

Although I knew about the Egg McMuffin when I was in high school, I didn't actually try one until I was in college. I was driving up the California coast one morning and didn't want to get bogged down eating breakfast somewhere. So I whipped through a McDonald's drive-through. A matter of seconds later I was back on the road. The McMuffin was easy to eat when driving, it didn't make a mess, and it tasted good. I since spent much of my career traveling and the McMuffin was often an option on my list. I've always liked McDonald's coffee, so the coffee-and-McMuffin mix had sort of a peanut-butter-and-jelly synergy going for it.

So, yes, I became a fan of the Egg McMuffin.

As for the origins of the Egg McMuffin, the product was not invented by the corporate side of McDonald's, but rather by a California-based franchise owner by the name of Herb Peterson. As for the name, "Egg McMuffin," it came from Patty Turner, the wife of a McDonald's executive.

It is chiefly comprised of a fried egg, an English muffin, Canadian bacon, and American cheese.

Hey, that English-Canadian-American thing just occurred to me. This lends an air of international sophistication to things. If we add some French fries to the mix, well, *mon dieu*, I'll have to start calling my beach chair a chaise.

The reported date of the Egg McMuffin's launch by McDonald's seems to vary by source, so I just consider it a vestige of the first half of the 1970s.

By the 1970s, car culture was well underway in the U.S. and two-earner households were also becoming common. Fast food meshed with an on-the-go and short-on-time lifestyle. The competition between fast food chains was intense. Their advertising campaigns filled the airwaves like artillery fire.

"You deserve a break today," said McDonald's.

"Have it your way," said Burger King.

"Hot and juicy," said Wendy's.

"We do chicken right," said Kentucky Fried Chicken.

"I want a Big Mac," said my little brother. A direct hit by the Golden Arches! Dad was an ad man so he'd keep score. We were more than a family. We were a focus group.

Not that the focal-points all coincided. Mom didn't approve of fast food. So Dad would occasionally fire up the Chrysler on the sly and sneak the kids to McDonald's for a clandestine burger.

Actually, you can't "sneak" a 70s-vintage Chrysler to McDonald's any better than you could sneak a CVN-68 class aircraft carrier through the Tinian channel. Talk about a difficult mission. Welcome to the fast food advertising wars, where coupons were taken, prisoners weren't, and focus groups were defended at all costs.

I am a sub-par breakfast eater. The few times I do manage to sit down for breakfast the occasion is basically social, since I'm a bigger fan of breakfast meetings than I am of breakfast. Come to think of it, I'm also a bigger fan of breakfast meetings than I am of meetings. If this confuses you, don't worry, it confuses me, too. \

Still, the Egg McMuffin sometimes has a role in my day, mainly because I don't have to plan for it to have a role at all. It is, in other words, a big deal because it never has to be a big deal. That's the hallmark of an enduring product.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Increasing wages will do more harm than good

Like everyone else, I am in support of raising the minimum wage but it must be done in a way that minimizes the negative effects of a raise. This is the reason I support the incremental increases recommended by the Congressional Budget Office. So instead of planning increases in 50 cent increments for two more years, they are planning to do it immediately because it is an election year and they have little else to offer.

The Legislature has a bill pending to raise the minimum wage increase immediately, irrespective of the impact on medium to small businesses. No doubt some employees will benefit from the increase but many businesses will be harmed by this enormous and unplanned increase. Instead of hiring new employees, new employment in small to medium size businesses will cease to make up for the increase. Prices will go up adding to the overall cost of living and in some cases, business activity will decline. Current wages may be cut and benefits eliminated altogether because most benefits in the private sector are elective.

Many businesses are still recovering from the decade-long stagnation and only now able to make business investments like upgrades in technology or property. Some businesses can simply tack on the cost of these increases to prices but not all businesses can do that easily. Hotels can add to the cost of rooms and this affects mostly tourists but local small or mid-size businesses rely on residents, which may not be able to afford these increases resulting in a decline of services.

A certain amount of political moves are acceptable during an election season but it is unwise to mess with more serious policy matters purely for political gain.

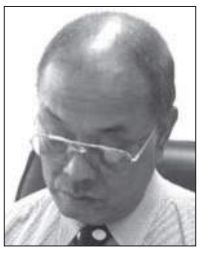
Since we are barely recovering from decades of economic decline it is irresponsible for the government to add more cost to business and the community without adequate study and consideration. The Legislature acts as though it prints money. The Congressional Budget Office studied the minimum wage issue in 2013 and published a report determining that incremental increases over a fixed period of time was the approach that generated the least number of negative effects. For our Legislature to do otherwise is reckless, harmful, and to do it in an election campaign season is even more damaging because they are prepared to take action to hurt local businesses and a fragile economy purely for political purposes.

Juan S. Tenorio (Santiago)
Dandan, Saipan

BSI investments

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune*.*



Boasting of BSI's investment, CEO Mark Brown said the firm has spent some $600 million here. My immediate reaction was, "Where?" Servile lapdogs in the lower chamber braved intelligent looks but none raised relevant queries to secure how the money was spent.

The anomaly, sir, isn't rocket science stuff to ponder upon. It instantly begs the query: Where was this large sum of money invested? Did it all go to the one-story Imperial Pacific Resort slated for soft opening sometime in February?

Please, get off your high horse and stop bluffing us with overblown figures easily dismantled with common sense. Eh, we know our simple arithmetic too!

Then he related the firm is up to 57 percent compliant under an agreement with the Lottery Commission to proactively hire and train local residents comprising of at least 65 percent of all employees.

The firm is further required to work with the local labor department "develop an annual plan evaluating employment needs, local conditions and challenges, current residency status of employees" and a "proactive plan to achieve the resident employment objective." A plan was recently submitted requiring ocular review. The proactive plan "shall include, if required, the funding and provision of necessary training through local educational and trade institutions to provide required skills."

It would be good to see what plans were formulated and implemented with NMC and NMI Trade Institute for the education and training of interested locals. Is this something you could share with us?

Brown boasts the company offers the highest salaries and benefits in the private sector. "And we want to remain the leaders in that respect," he said. That isn't quite the case, sir! Buckle down with your HR people to explore whether it is fact or fiction that employees have been called into a meeting to inform them of salary adjustments downwards. Through the grapevine, some have quit while others await disposition contemplating a class action lawsuit. It's good to know if this is fact or fiction. If it's a fact, then an explanation is merited!

Why would BSI rob employees of their empowerment to live with common decency? You see the unintended consequence of salary reduction is the forced condition where employees return once more to food stamps and housing vouchers in order to survive. Why hire them if you can't maintain what you started them out with? This is where federal labor ought to step in and probe the issue.

With salary reduction, can any of them really use their reduced salaries to take out real estate loans at local banks to build the first family home? It's the litmus test to see improvements in the local economy—people building or buying new homes—amidst healthy growth.

What about foreigners hired that allegedly came in as tourists? Why is homeland security mute on the need to probe this issue? In the process, locals who are qualified for supervisory positions were pushed aside and replaced by foreign workers. Is there an explanation for this demoralizing disposition by BSI's top guns? Our rather reticent people attached to BSI have started voicing their sentiments and these expressions, Mr. Brown, didn't spin out of thin air.

Well, as the single licensee he ought to understand instantly that BSI either makes good on its commitment or lose it all! What's your view of keeping the local economy homogenous?

BSI paying taxes isn't at issue as much as whether it is sufficiently taxed, knowing that filthy rich players have come and gone leaving behind millions in losses. Hope the loss isn't a design to demonstrate that the industry could be a very lucrative venture or that the island is now the center of money laundering.

Fiesta at taxpayers' expense!

Rafaet and Biktot took the entire Cabinet to Rota last week purportedly for meetings. It was timed with the Fiestan San Isidro for party time. They've done it twice already! Is the meeting a state function? Isn't this a violation of separation of church and state? So taxpayers end up paying over $20,000 for airline tickets for weekend parties? Isn't the Legislature equally guilty of wasteful spending too in the superficial excuse of participatory democracy?

Why are Rafaet and Biktot splurging on our taxes? Aren't we suffering heavily in abject poverty because of their lack of leadership? Why the obvious lack of purpose? Why can't this money be spent on medical referral so it sends critical patients off-island on a timely basis? Why not buy critical hospital supplies so patients could change gowns daily and not suffer healthcare rationing as a result of insufficient funds?

Is this prudent spending per your jungle rules? I ask OPA to probe the abusive expenditure of public funds for quick vacations at taxpayers' expense!

Labor challenge

The NMI has taken a long snooze after federal takeover of immigration. U.S. immigration policy literally denied it CW workers' approval of applications via their employers.

The immigration takeover would bring the economic future of the islands to its knees. It is also the case in neighboring Guam to the south. Politicians are busy talking and talking....

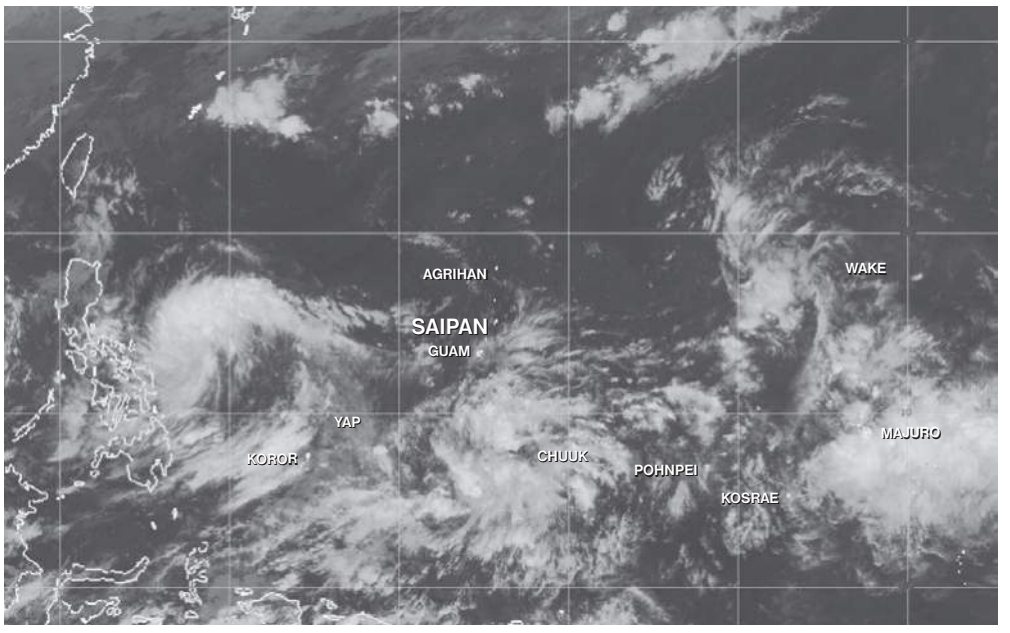
The reality is neither jurisdiction could provide the needed warm bodies on major construction projects. I'm afraid that Guam, like the NMI in its lawsuit against the feds in recent years, would be told that control of immigration rests with the federal government, no other.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
▲88º ▼78º	▲87º ▼78º	▲89º ▼79º	▲89º ▼79º	▲89º ▼79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:50 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers and light east winds prevail across the Marianas this morning. A circulation was located southwest of Chuuk near 6N150E. At this time expect isolated showers and thunderstorms today. As the circulation gets closer scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will cover the Marianas Friday night and persist through Sunday night as the system passes by. Winds will be from the east today turning southeast Saturday. Current forecast has the wind speeds at 10 to 15 mph through Saturday night increasing to 10 to 20 mph Sunday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Partly sunny	83 / 89 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	81 / 88 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	79 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	81 / 89 °F
Pohnpei	Afternoon clouds	77 / 87 °F
Kosrae	Broken clouds	82 / 87 °F
Majuro	Morning clouds	81 / 86 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Morning clouds	53 / 60 °F
Beijing	Sunny	48 / 74 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	76 / 85 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	74 / 82 °F
London	Morning clouds	47 / 57 °F
Los Angeles	Haze	58 / 73 °F
Manila	Morning clouds	78 / 89 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	36 / 69 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	77 / 84 °F
New York	Sunny	49 / 62 °F
Osaka	High level clouds	52 / 73 °F
Paris	Mostly cloudy	48 / 59 °F
Pusan	Morning clouds	57 / 72 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	65 / 77 °F
Salem	Cloudy	54 / 61 °F
San Francisco	Rain	62 / 67 °F
Seoul	Sunny	45 / 73 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	59 / 67 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	46 / 63 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
5:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.82 Feet
12:00 PM	LOW TIDE	0.2 Feet
6:17 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.03 Feet
-	-	-

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:09 AM	5:57 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:57 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Tuesday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	4:31 PM	3:53 AM
Saturday	5:19 PM	4:52 AM
Sunday	6:10 PM	5:52 AM
Monday	7:02 PM	6:54 AM
Tuesday	7:56 PM	7:57 AM

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another step backward

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was established under Public Law 16-51, which restructured the administration of the Northern Mariana Island's only hospital, the Commonwealth Health Center, into a self-governing corporation. The enactment of PL16-51 allowed healthcare administrators and professionals the "flexibility and authority to independently meet acute and long-term healthcare needs of the Commonwealth…" without the influence of politics or suffering from political backlash.

However, on Oct. 7, 2016, it was announced that NMI leaders in the House of Representatives of the 19th Commonwealth Legislature approved House Bill 19-186, which seeks to re-establish a government approved board of trustees within CHCC, giving the board complete control over its management and resources. The establishment of the board will not require its six appointed members to have any healthcare or medical field background. These potential members can be anyone with "at least a bachelor's degree from any postsecondary institution and five years of management and supervisory experience…," many of whom will be most likely be selected from within the political spectrum.

This attempt to break the foundation and initial reasoning on which CHCC is now built upon does not only affect the efficiency of CHCC's management but risks the hospital's future on a governing body that does not have the healthcare experience or qualifications to be in control of a hospital's day-to-day activities. Re-establishing the board with these minimal qualifications is purposeless and will become a roadblock that will eventually slow the progression of CHCC's primary mission, which is to provide the best medical care for the residents of the CNMI. Being a resident, an off-island student, and a voter in the CNMI, I cannot stand silent to the lack of common sense in which HB19-186 was approved. The approval of this bill places the years of work to re-establish CHCC's good graces with the Centers of Medicaid/Medicare Services and the rejuvenation of healthcare professionals at CHCC in complete jeopardy. The modernization of CHCC and re-accreditation with CMS would not have been possible without CHCC's current leadership and administration. So lawmakers why obstruct that progress with HB19-186?

It's a complete outrage that politics again is trying to interfere in the hospital's affairs that are better left to the professionals themselves. I'm talking about healthcare administrators, medical professionals and hospital staff who have spent years studying, training, ultimately receiving accreditation or acknowledgement from nationally recognized boards in their respective fields. This political move is a disservice to the physicians, nurses, and entire medical community of the CNMI. It is step back that places the healthcare security of our islands in another state of disarray and does not provide any solution to the address the health disparities across our region.

Johnny Tudela Aldan
Creighton University School of Medicine student

Village residents are up in arms

According to many residents of the 26 families that comprise the Susupe Lake Neighborhood Watch Committee, they are constantly exposed to toxic waste and noise pollution from a construction and junkyard business within their residential neighborhood. The business, USA Fanter Inc., is located on the shores of Lake Susupe, the CNMI's only freshwater lake or reservoir.

The problem came to a head in July 2016 when certain residents had had enough and filed a lawsuit against the company and Steven Qian, the owner. Reporter Ferdie de la Torre of the *Saipan Tribune* covered this story and the details of the lawsuit in an article published in the *Tribune* on July 11, 2016.

The neighbors' current complaint is that USA Fanter Corp. has intensified its activities since the July 11, 2016 article and lawsuit, from yet an additional site in the Lake Susupe neighborhood on the east side of our home.

Last weekend and during the week the neighbors parked a car in front of the Fanter dumpsite, with a sign placed in the windshield saying: *Please stop working on Saturday & Sunday. Stop noise & disturbing our peace & quiet life. Your neighbors.*

Fanter answered the sign by misrepresenting the civil nature of the long running dispute and the ongoing court case against Fanter. Mr. Qian was seen at the site, claiming to the police this was a criminal act and asked the police to tow the car parked in from of Mr. Qian's property. The car—even though parked on public street (not private land)—was impounded by the police and cost a lot to retrieve from the tow yard.

Susupe Lake and the land that Fanter is occupying is zoned village residential, yet Mr. Qian has continued to run his junkyard and polluting activities unabated and has ignored the lawsuit and the loud outcry of residents.

The noise pollution from the construction of trusses and steel welding and manufacturing activities commence every morning at 6:30am even on Saturday, Sunday, Easter and Christmas days. The noise and whistles from the bulldozers beeping, beeping, beeping awakes the residents every day at 6:30am, even on Sundays and holidays.

Dr. Gene and Anna Eagle-Oden
Susupe Lake, Saipan

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Board of Directors

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. better known as NMPASI hereby seeks interested individuals to fill several vacancies on its Board of Directors for four (4) year terms to be effective starting on October 1, 2016.

The eligibility criteria for persons wishing to fill available vacancies include that a person must:

(1) Be a person with a documented disability;
(2) Be parents or guardians of persons with a documented disability; OR
(3) Be immediate relatives or guardians of persons with mentally impairing disabilities.

The Board is looking to fill vacancies with three (3) people from the Island of Saipan, one (1) from the Island of Tinian and One (1) from the Island of Rota.

Interested individuals should submit (1) a Letter and of Interest and (2) a Resumé addressed to the NMPASI Executive Committee **NO LATER THAN October 20, 2016.** Decisions about who is selected are done so at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee and the General Board Membership. The staff including the Executive Director cannot appoint anyone to the Board.

For anything more, please feel free to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel] / 235-7275 [fax/tty] or via our website at www.nmpasi.org.

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AS LITO LOT NOW UP FOR AUCTION!

**LOT 023 I 02 - 3,000 square meters (more or less)
located along Chalan Monsignor Martinez
As Lito, Saipan**

Auction will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2016
at the hour of 2:00 p.m., at the entranceway of the
Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D'Torres Building,
Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI.

Contact Auctioneer Micheline Brel
at 670-235-8060 or via email brelmich@gmail.com
for more information.

THIS SPACIOUS LOT COULD BE YOURS!

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-001

Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System at CUC Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEM's) from which CUC intends to select one proposer to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's power supply requirements.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 18, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-001 – Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 9, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 20, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Docomo Pacific commercial captures a special proposal

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific released a short film that captures a very special moment between local filmmaker Brian Muña and new fiancé Marissa Ricalde. The buzzing video garnered 38,000 views and was shared about 360 times on Facebook, with numerous likes and reactions.

Docomo Pacific's production crew collaborated with Muña to shoot a mock television commercial that resulted in the actual marriage proposal of Muña to Ricalde, who met on a production set a few years prior.

Bobby Bonifacio Jr., creative manager with Docomo Pacific, was initially intrigued by the idea as Muña's pitch came around the same time as Docomo Pacific's "Twenty Percent More Data" launch, with the theme focused on sharing moments.

Beginning with two actors struggling to complete their lines, the female actress proceeds to leave the set as planned. Ricalde was then asked to stand in, along with Muña, to assist the actors with the desired outcome of the scene. Ricalde's understanding of the project was to assist Muña in capturing behind-the-scenes footage. Shortly after, the true story line unveils with a banner dropping in the background, displaying the words: "Marissa, Will You Marry Me?"

Reciting his lines as expected, Muña then drops the script, revealing instead a jewelry box in place of the mobile phone used in its place earlier. ***(Docomo Pacific)***

Draft bill uses 3 prongs to fight family violence

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Attorney General Edward Manibusan are presenting the Legislature with a proposal to reform the Commonwealth's domestic violence laws.

"The people of the Commonwealth strive to live by the principle of *ayuda familia*. Nothing is more destructive to this principle than domestic violence. As we commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we urge the Legislature to take decisive action to stop domestic violence in the Commonwealth," said Torres and Manibusan in a joint letter to House Speaker Ralph S. Demapan and Senate President Francisco M. Borja.

The proposed bill takes a three-pronged approach to fighting family violence. The first is to create a new felony offense for strangulation of a household member. Research by the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention shows that a domestic violence victim who has been strangled is 750 percent more likely to be killed by their abuser than a victim who has not been strangled. If this bill is enacted, a person who strangled a household member would face up to seven years in prison.

The second prong is the enactment of the 2007 version of the Model Stalking Code. The Code, developed by the National Center for the Victims of Crime based on research into stalking behavior, would outlaw a broader range of intimidating and controlling behaviors than the Commonwealth's existing stalking laws.

"Stalking isn't just an annoyance, it's a threat," said assistant attorney general Michael Witry, who helped draft the bill. "And stalkers are always coming up with new ways to terrorize their victims. That's why the Model Stalking Code is designed to cover everything from explicit threats to spying to cyber stalking and more."

The third prong is a set of evidence rules that would apply to domestic violence cases. If the bill is enacted, an abuser who prevented their victim from testifying in court would not be able to use evidentiary rules to prevent the victim's earlier statements from being used at trial. The bill would also allow a victim's pre-trial sworn statements to be introduced into evidence if the victim's testimony at trial was different from the statement. Finally, the bill would allow experts to testify about scientific research into how domestic violence victims behave.

"The new evidence rules serve two major purposes," said Witry. "First, in many domestic violence cases, the abuser lives with the victim and has lots of leverage over the victim, so the risk of witness intimidation is extremely high. The first two new evidence rules help to protect against witness intimidation. Second, people who are victims of domestic violence frequently behave in ways that don't seem to make any sense to the general public. But once you've done some research, you see that many of these behaviors show up over and over again in domestic violence victims. Our judges and juries need to be able to hear about that research to be able to understand victim behavior."

Torres and Manibusan made their presentation to coincide with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which has taken place every October since 1987. In their letter to the Legislature, Torres and Manibusan thanked the members of the Office of the Attorney General who drafted the bill, along with "all those involved in fighting domestic violence in our community."

"We ask you to live up to our principles and protect the families of the Commonwealth by enacting this bill," said Torres and Manibusan. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Ukulele Festival moved to Fishing Base

The 2nd Annual Marianas Ukulele Festival, scheduled for next Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016, will be held at Fishing Base in Garapan, across from the Kristo Rai Church from 2pm to 9pm. Several highly established ukulele performers from Asia, including JazzoomCafe from Japan and Blues Lee from Korea, will be featured. These special off-island ukulele professionals will also be giving special live performances at several schools and the Joeten Kiyu Public Library on Friday, Oct. 21.

Major sponsors are the Marianas Visitors Authority, Delta Air Lines, KKMP, Pacific Development Inc., Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, IT&E, Serenti Hotel, Fiesta Resort and Spa, and Attorney Robert T. Torres.

All ukulele players/groups interested in performing at the festival should contact Larry Lee at marianasukefest@gmail.com or 285-7127, or Gordon Marciano at 285-1195. Anyone interested in supporting the festival through cash or in-kind contributions should contact the same.

The Marianas Ukulele Festival is a fun, family event featuring continuous live entertainment, local food and arts and crafts booths, ukulele demonstrations, raffle drawings and surprises. It is free and open to the public. This year's festival is dedicated to the memory of David K. Peter and Ana Maria P. Limes, two of the Marianas' legendary performers.

The Marianas Ukulele Festival Association is a registered, non-profit organization whose mission is: to promote and perpetuate ukulele music and heritage by bringing people of all ages together to share the love of ukulele music; and, to create an avenue for people of all cultures to share the island warmth and *Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit through the enjoyment of music and culture. For more information, visit www.marianasukulelefestival.org. ***(PR)***

Business

Wells Fargo CEO John Stumpf steps down amid sales scandal

NEW YORK (AP)—Wells Fargo's embattled CEO John Stumpf is stepping down as the nation's second-largest bank is roiled by a scandal over its sales practices.

The San Francisco bank said Wednesday that Stumpf is retiring effective immediately and also relinquishing his title as chairman. He won't be receiving severance pay and the bank announced earlier that he will forfeit $41 million in stock awards.

Stumpf

Wells Fargo's chief operating officer, Tim Sloan, will succeed Stumpf as CEO and join the company's board. Sloan has been with Wells Fargo for 29 years. Stephen Sanger, the bank's lead director, will serve as the board's non-executive chairman.

Stumpf's end at Wells Fargo comes a little over a month after the bank was fined by California and federal regulators $185 million over its sales practices.

The regulators alleged employees trying to meet aggressive sales targets opened bank and credit card accounts, moved money between those accounts and even created fake email addresses to sign customers up for online banking—all without customer authorization. Debit cards were issued and activated, as well as PINs created, without customers' knowledge.

"I wish I could snap my fingers and make everything all right again, but it's going to take time," said Sloan said in an interview. "We are going to make it right by our customers and we are going to work to win that trust back."

Stumpf, a 34-year veteran of the bank who took over as CEO in 2007, had previously gained acclaim for navigating Wells Fargo through the financial crisis and keeping it free of scandal. But he came under withering pressure over the alleged misconduct, believed to have gone on at the bank for years. Some 5,300 lower-level employees were fired.

"While I have been deeply committed and focused on managing the company through this period, I have decided it is best for the company that I step aside," he said in a prepared statement Wednesday.

Among Stumpf's critics, Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts told him at a Senate Banking Committee hearing last month that he should resign and "give back the money you took while the scam was going on."

News of Stumpf's departure, however, did little to quell some lawmakers' anger over the affair or their demands for information from the company on how harmed customers and employees will be made whole.

Senate Banking Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., and the panel's senior Democrat, Sherrod Brown of Ohio, said Wednesday that Stumpf's retirement doesn't answer important questions.

"We are still waiting for answers as to how Wells Fargo plans to right its wrongs against customers and the low-paid employees who weren't given the benefit of a retirement package when they were fired for refusing to cheat," Brown said in a statement. Stumpf earned $19.3 million last year.

Toyota recalls 340K Prius hybrid cars for faulty brakes

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp. is recalling 340,000 gas-electric hybrid Prius cars around the world 212,000 of them in Japan and 94,000 in North America, for a defect in their parking brakes.

Japanese automaker Toyota said in a statement Thursday that it was not aware of any reports of accidents linked to the defect "as of Oct. 3, 2016," updating an earlier statement, in which it had said it was still looking into various reports.

Toyota said the parking brake cable can disengage unexpectedly, causing the brakes to stop working properly. So if the car is left in any gear other than park, it could start rolling away, and possibly crash.

In the recall announced Wednesday, Toyota said 17,000 Prius vehicles were recalled in Europe, and the rest in Australia and other regions. The problem models were manufactured from August 2015 through October 2016. Owners will receive notices starting next month.

The company said all the vehicles were manufactured at its Tsutsumi plant in Toyota city, Japan, the company's headquarters, one of a handful of plants around the world that make the Prius.

Toyota's brand suffered in 2009, when the company was embroiled in a massive global recall over quality lapses, including faulty brakes, defective floor mats and sticky gas pedals. Its brand power has bounced back since then, after the company, long known for high worker morale, reviewed its quality control.

Samsung sends fireproof boxes for Galaxy Note 7 returns

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung Electronics said Wednesday it is sending fire-resistant packages to its customers in the U.S. as a precaution against possible fires or explosions from Galaxy Note 7s they return to retailers.

Samsung is offering prepaid shipping boxes as an option for U.S. consumers who purchased the phones on its website, Samsung.com. It said consumers who purchased their Note 7 phones from mobile carriers should visit the carriers' websites for recall instructions.

On Tuesday, Samsung said it was discontinuing the Note 7 phones just two months after their launch, after two recalls and many reports of fires. Samsung must now deal with receiving back more than 1.5 million Galaxy Note 7 phones, both the original ones and those issued as replacements. Most were sold in the U.S. and South Korea.

A video on YouTube dated Tuesday shows a man it says is at the XDA Developers office in the U.S., unpacking a kit containing a static shield bag, thermally insulated boxes, gloves and instructions for ground shipping only.

"We have just received this crazy Galaxy Note 7 return kit," the person said in the video.

According to the XDA Developers forum, Samsung's packing instructions say the Note 7 should be put in the static shield bag and then in a box labeled "OEM Replacement" to be put inside an "Inner Box" and a "Recovery Box." Shipping companies reportedly had complained they did not want to handle Note 7 returns because of fire concerns.

Samsung said the packaging kits conform with U.S. requirements for shipping lithium-ion batteries or devices containing them that are subject to a recall.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-002

CONSULTANCY SERVICES, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SIX ENGINE SYSTEMS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the oversight and management of Supply and Installation of Six (6) Engine Systems, 8-10 MW/Each, at CUC Saipan Power Plant 1, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified entities from which CUC intends to select one consultant to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's consultancy and construction management requirements.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 19, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-002 – Consultancy Services, Supply and Installation of Six Engine Systems"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 10, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business

license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 21, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-003

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO UPDATE CUC'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AND CUC'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for professional services to update the CUC Rules and Regulations and CUC's Policies and Procedures Manual.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified entities from which CUC intends to select one consultant to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's consultancy requirements.

The scope of work and solicitation package will be emailed upon request, by the CUC Procurement and Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement and Supply Division.

A pre-proposal conference will be conducted at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building on **October 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, proposers shall familiarize themselves with the current CUC Rules and Regulations and the CUC Policies and Procedures Manual prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC RFP-17-003 – Professional Services to Update CUC's Rules and Regulations and CUC's Policies and Procedures Manual"* to the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competitive offerors.

All offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information of understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award of a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This bid and the ensuring contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI business license in compliance with the licensing laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 24, 2016,** to Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant, via email address at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANUEL B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Kanoa Resort

Saipan

Invites qualified US workers to apply for this vacant position:

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic/Technician (1)
Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration and/or associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or three (3) years of experience as an A/C refrigeration technician. Must be able to read electrical wiring and control diagrams. Must be able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Cook (12)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with three (3) years work experience preferably in a hotel. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Excellent stamina, ability to stand for long periods and can lift and carry up to 35 pounds without any assistance. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Steward (10)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Over 6 months progressive experience in stewarding capacities. Able to perform assigned duties with great attention to detail, pace, correctness and good manners. Must be able to lift and carry up to 35 pounds without any assistance. Ability to prioritize and arrange work assignment is essential. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Housekeeper (7)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. One (1) year work experience preferably in a hotel preferred but willing to train the right candidate. Must be able to lift and carry up to 35 pounds without any assistance. Must have attention to detail working carefully within the minimum time is essential. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Public Area Attendant (5)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. One (1) year work experience preferably in a hotel preferred but willing to train the right candidate. Keep building in clean and orderly condition. Perform heavy cleaning duties, such as cleaning floors, shampooing rugs, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish. Must be able to lift and carry up to 35 pounds without any assistance. Must have attention to detail working carefully within the minimum time is essential. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than October 17, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

WANTED

SPORTS REPORTER

The **Saipan Tribune** is looking for a full-time sports reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be able to write stories based on score sheets;
- Can work fast within deadlines and in a stressful environment;
- Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on short notice;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email you résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the **Saipan Tribune** office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. On-island hires preferred.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Nation

Two women tell paper Trump touched them inappropriately

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two women tell *The New York Times* that Donald Trump touched them inappropriately—groping a woman in one instance and kissing a woman in another—during separate encounters that took place as long as three decades ago, the newspaper reported Wednesday.

Trump told the *Times* there was no truth to either of the claims. In a statement, Trump's campaign spokesman, Jason Miller, said "the entire article is fiction" and accused the newspaper of launching "a completely false, coordinated character assassination."

Another newspaper, *The Palm Beach Post* in Florida, reported Wednesday night that a woman said Trump groped her at his Mar-a-Lago estate 13 years ago. Trump's campaign said her allegation "lacks any merit or veracity."

And late Wednesday, a writer for *People* magazine reported a 2005 incident in which she said Trump kissed her against her will at Mar-a-Lago. The Trump campaign said, "There is no merit or veracity to this fabricated story."

The women's stories come less than a week after the publication of a 2005 recording in which the Republican nominee boasted of groping women. Trump apologized for his comments, but also dismissed them as "locker room talk" and a distraction from the campaign.

AP

Jessica Leeds enters her apartment building, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016, in New York.

Both women who spoke to the *Times* said they were coming forward with their stories because of the recording and Trump's response to questions about it at Sunday's presidential debate. The New York businessman said then he had never done the things he bragged about on the recording.

Jessica Leeds, 74, of New York, said she sat beside Trump in the first-class cabin of a flight to New York more than three decades ago. After less than an hour in the air, he lifted the armrest separating them and began to touch her, she said, and grabbed her breasts and tried to put his hand up her skirt.

"It was an assault," Leeds told the newspaper. She said she fled to the back of the plane and sat in the coach section.

A second woman, Rachel Crooks of Ohio, told the newspaper she met Trump as a 22-year-old in 2005—the same year he was recorded bragging in vulgar terms about grabbing women's genitals.

River that gave life to N. Carolina town now tears it apart

LUMBERTON, N.C. (AP)—A day after fleeing from the swollen Lumber River, the residents of this down-but-not-quite-out former mill town waded into the swirling, tea-colored floodwaters Wednesday and filled jugs for something most of us take for granted: flushing their toilets.

"We still don't have water or power in our house," Caroline Kahn said as she sloshed through someone's flooded front yard in a pair of flower-print boots. "So we need water for the necessities of life."

The river gave this town its life. Now it has torn the community apart.

About 1,200 residents had to be evacuated by boat and plucked from their roofs by helicopters as the river crested. Two of the state's 20 fatalities occurred in Robeson County, of which Lumberton is the seat.

Of all the towns affected by Hurricane Matthew, this city of 22,000 was among the hardest hit and the least able to absorb the blow.

"It is just a heartbreak," said novelist Jill McCorkle, a Lumberton native. She and her husband, Tom Rankin, drove southeast from their home in Hillsborough, his pickup filled to the gunwales with diapers and drinking water. "It's a very poor area anyway."

In her youth, McCorkle worked as a lifeguard on the Lumber. The river meanders through her fictional landscape, where the mosquitoes "are so big they roll up your pants legs to bite you."

"When people are missing in Marsh County, the river is one of the first places to go," the novelist wrote in "Carolina Moon," published in 1996. The police "regularly drag nets up and down through that twisting brown river, one man in the boat designated to watch the branches of the live oaks for snakes that might sense the warmth of bodies below and drop onto them."

"There's the constant trade-off of the river giving and taking away," McCorkle said. "It's a really beautiful, beautiful river"—until it bursts its banks and "goes out of control."

Like so many early settlements, Lumberton depended on the river for survival. By the late 18th century, the town had become a trading center for timber and related materials.

"Rafts of pine logs on which were piled other pine products such as tar, pitch, turpentine and resin were floated down" the river to Georgetown, South Carolina, according to a history produced by the Federal Writer's Project in the 1930s.

But it wasn't timber that gave the river and town their names.

To local Indians, it was not the Lumber, but the Lumbee. Poet John Charles McNeill, a native of neighboring Scotland County who grew up along the river, said the name was from a local Indian word meaning "black water."

Early European surveyors and settlers called it "Drowning Creek."

In the 2011 book "Communities in Economic Crisis: Appalachia and the South," Lumbee Indian activist Richard Regan drew a primal connection between his people and the waters upon which they live.

Asia

Duterte orders preparations for US drills scrapped

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Wednesday he has ordered his defense chief not to prepare for joint exercises with the U.S. military next year as he moved to realize his threat to scrap a high-profile symbol of his country's treaty alliance with Washington.

Duterte, however, reiterated he would not abrogate a 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with the U.S. that provides a security umbrella for the Philippines. He has said, however, that he'll chart a foreign policy not dependent on Washington.

"I insist that we realign, that there will be no more exercises next year, 'Do not prepare,' I told Defense Secretary Lorenzana," he said in a speech at the anniversary of the country's coast guard, referring to his defense chief.

Delfin Lorenzana said in a news conference last week that he has explained to the president the value of the annual military maneuvers with the Americans in responding to natural disasters and in potential security crises. The defense chief said he expected a final decision on the Philippines's participation before the two sides started planning the drills.

Duterte

Top officials of the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii are scheduled to fly to the Philippines later this month to discuss a range of defense issues, including plans for future joint exercises, said a Philippine defense official.

Manila's defense department, however, has asked them to postpone their trip until after the U.S. presidential elections next month and after Duterte has finalized his decision to change the Philippine military's engagements with U.S. forces, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the delicate nature of the issue.

An eight-day combat exercise between U.S. and Philippine forces ended a day early Tuesday in an air of uncertainty because Duterte wanted to end such drills, saying the maneuvers only benefit the U.S. military.

Outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Manila Philip Goldberg said Washington wants to continue its robust alliance with the Philippines, saying both countries benefit mutually from the partnership.

"We have the desire to continue our alliance," Goldberg told reporters. "Some of the things are beyond my control, beyond the U.S. control, but what I can tell you is the U.S. has a string of commitment to the Philippines, to the people of the Philippines, to the economic well-being of the Philippines."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Australia, Singapore say defense pact should not worry China

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—China should not see increased military cooperation between Singapore and Australia through a deal that will dramatically expand northern Australian training facilities as an attempt contain it, the two prime ministers said on Thursday. Australian and Singaporean officials signed a pact under which Singapore will spend up to 2.25 billion Australian dollars ($1.7 billion) to double the capacity of its facilities in military training areas in Queensland state. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said China was the biggest trading partner of both Singapore and Australia. The agreement was part of regional cooperation, he said. "I don't think that Singapore and Australia together could possibly be seen as a bloc" against China, Lee told reporters. "We are good friends, but we are not treaty allies and neither are we opposed to any countries in the region."

2 Sydney teens charged with planning Islamic State attack

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Two 16-year-old Australian boys arrested in Sydney after each bought a knife were charged on Thursday with planning a terrorist attack on behalf of the extremist Islamic State group, police said. The two were arrested by the federal-state Joint Counter-Terrorism Team in the western suburb of Bankstown on Wednesday, New South Wales state Deputy Police Commissioner Catherine Burn said, as Australia marked the 14th anniversary of extremist bombings in Indonesia that killed 202, including 88 Australians. Burn said police had been concerned about the pair for some time and that the boys had potentially been radicalized by peers. The pair had bought "two bayonet-type knives" from a Bankstown gun shop then caught a bus to the street near a Muslim prayer hall where they were arrested, Burn said. Police did not know their intended target, but an attack was imminent, she said.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-OPM-183 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF SEVEN (7) DESKTOP COMPUTERS AND TWO (2) LAPTOP/NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS FOR THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ **ISIDRO K. SEMAN**
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB17-NIMO-010

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CHARTER SERVICE OF A U.S. COAST GUARD CERTIFIED AND LICENSED OCEAN VESEL FOR THE NORTHERN ISLAND MAYOR'S OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **JEROME K. ALDAN**
NORTHERN ISLAND MAYOR

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-16-2349: FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT SERVICES FOR THREE (3) FISCAL YEARS

Closing Date: **October 21, 2016** Time: **10:00 a.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher Concepcion
Managing Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. in the As Paris Restaurant, located in Songsong Village on Rota. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (September 21, 2016)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT
III. CORRESPONDENCES
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. Fiscal Year 2015 Audit approval
2. Approval of administrative rules – Retention of documents

VII. NEW BUSINESS
1. Request for Proposals for Seaport Properties
2. Request for Advertising Permit- Bridge Investment Group
3. Sole Source – Ricondo RFP
4. Supplemental Budget Request – Airport
   a. Air Conditioners
   b. FAA Reimbursement – Runway End Identifier Lights (REIL)
5. Renewable Energy Resolution
6. Personnel Matters/Contracts

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

October 13, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-17

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the supply and delivery of Automotive Diesel Oil for its use at the Saipan International Airport/Seaport.

The information, scope of work and other considerations of the proposal is available beginning September 30, 2016 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Interest proposers must submit one original and two copies of the sealed proposal. The sealed proposals must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., October 19, 2016, to the Office of the Executive Director on the aforementioned location.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Acting Executive Director

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENTS
FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES
NMC SOQ 16-001

Northern Marianas College is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform Project Management Services for work related to the planning, design and construction/ renovation phases associated with NMC Capital Improvement Projects and ongoing Typhoon Soudelor Recovery efforts. The selected firm(s) will provide Project Management Services and other Professional and Technical Capacity Services as required for the completion of assigned NMC Capital Improvement Projects including the design and construction of a new multi-level building to house classrooms and direct student support programs on the As Terlaje, Saipan Campus.

The Request for Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) Package is available at NMC, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd floor. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for qualifications statement must be submitted in electronic or written form no later than 4:30 Pm, September 23, 2016 CST.

Interested firms shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies no later than 10:00am, **October 14, 2016, NMC Procurement & Property Management Office,** As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
1. Overall PM experience in the Pacific area and especially the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island; - 30 Points
2. PM Experience related to Higher Education Campus Facilities; - 30 Points
3. Level of proficiency in performing in preforming PM services promptly; and level of experience with local and federal regulations and requirements; - 20 Points
4. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable ; - 20 Points

Discussions may be conducted with selected firms regarding agreement requirements and technical approach and a selection made there, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Firm or Company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the College. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all statement of professional qualification for any reason if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement Manager, NMC

/s/ David J. Attao
Interim President, NMC

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

World

Officials say US missiles destroy radar sites on Yemen coast

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S.-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles destroyed three coastal radar sites in Houthi-controlled territory on Yemen's Red Sea Coast early Thursday, officials said, a retaliatory action that followed two incidents this week in which missiles were fired at U.S. Navy ships.

The strikes marked the first shots fired by the U.S. in anger against the Houthis in Yemen's long-running civil war. The U.S. previously only provided logistical support and refueling to the Saudi-led coalition battling Yemen's Shiite rebels known as Houthis and their allies, including supporters of Yemen's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh.

While the U.S. military has been focused on al-Qaida in Yemen, the Houthis had not been a primary target of American forces until the missile launches from Houthi-controlled territory this week.

No information on casualties from the U.S. missiles was provided by American officials. The three radar sites were in remote areas, where there was little risk of civilian casualties or collateral damage, said a military official who was not authorized to be named and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The destroyer USS *Nitze* launched the cruise missiles, the official said.

President Barack Obama authorized the strikes at the recommendation of Defense Secretary Ash Carter and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford, Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said in a statement. U.S. officials had said earlier that the U.S. was weighing what military response to take.

"These limited self-defense strikes were conducted to protect our personnel, our ships and our freedom of navigation in this important maritime passageway," Cook said following the U.S. action. "The United States will respond to any further threat to our ships and commercial traffic, as appropriate, and will continue to maintain our freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, the Bab al-Mandeb and elsewhere around the world."

Loai al-Shami, a Houthi spokesman, declined to comment immediately on the U.S. strike.

Early Wednesday, two missiles were fired at the USS Mason, an Arleigh Burke class of guided missile destroyer that is conducting routine operations in the region with the USS Ponce, an amphibious warship. Neither missile got near the ship, said a U.S. military official.

Cholera rises in southern Haiti in wake of Hurricane Matthew

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP)—Hurricane Matthew first took the home of Sonette Crownal in a town on Haiti's southern coast. Then cholera came for her baby.

The 25-year-old market vendor and her family were still taking stock of their losses after the storm when she noticed that Peter James, just 10 months old, was showing symptoms of a disease that health authorities say is surging in the wake of the storm.

"When I saw the symptoms and knew what was really going on, then I got scared," Crownal said as she cradled the boy in her arms at a Les Cayes cholera treatment center on Tuesday. About 20 people, some still listless from the disease, lay on cots under a metal roof as a fan cooled the tropical heat.

Cholera is caused by bacteria that produce severe diarrhea and is contracted by drinking contaminated water or eating contaminated food. It can lead to a rapid, agonizing death through complete dehydration, but is easily treatable if caught in time.

The Category 4 storm that hit on Oct. 4 has killed at least 473 people, according to national emergency officials, and the wreckage it left behind has created the perfect conditions for spreading the water-borne disease. Matthew sent rivers and outdoor latrines overflowing across the mountainous landscape. Cholera-contaminated water has leeched into people's drinking wells, those that weren't ruined by Matthew's storm surge.

Many thousands of people whose homes were ruined are sharing close quarters with family and friends, the kind of proximity amid poor sanitation that aids in transmission. Already reports have been trickling in that the disease is spiking.

The World Health Organization says at least 200 suspected cholera cases have been reported across southwest Haiti since Matthew hit and it has pledged to send 1 million doses of cholera vaccine to Haiti.

Extremely dangerous Hurricane Nicole to pummel Bermuda

HAMILTON, Bermuda (AP)—The British territory of Bermuda hunkered down overnight as Hurricane Nicole rapidly strengthened into a major Category 4 storm and took aim at the tiny island in the northern Atlantic Ocean.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami called Nicole an "extremely dangerous" storm and urged islanders to rush preparations for its powerful rain and winds. It said Nicole should pass near or over Bermuda on Thursday. The storm was located about 180 miles (290 kilometers) south-southwest of Bermuda late Wednesday night. It had maximum sustained winds of 130 mph (215 kph) and was moving north-northeast at 102 mph (19 kph).

Rains were already hitting Bermuda and authorities on Wednesday ordered schools and government offices closed, and asked people to remain indoors.

"I believe we are generally ready for it," Premier Michael Dunkley said. "Now we just have to hope and pray for the best."

Hundreds of people had rushed to shops and gas stations for last-minute preparations as rain and wind began to batter Bermuda, which has sturdy infrastructure and is accustomed to storms.

Those at home made last-minute preparations for what lay ahead, with resident Danni Joell saying she was "cooking up a storm" with her son, Tyler, in the kitchen.

"So far we've made an apple pie, and there are some cookies in the oven," she said. "Hopefully we will have enough to gets us through."

Businesses were largely boarded up by Wednesday night, and dozens of vessels from one marina were already neatly packed away between historical buildings in Mangrove Bay, a popular spot for water activities in Bermuda's northwest tip. Hotels, meanwhile, reported an uptick in bookings as people sought shelters with power.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of October 14, 2016

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Tai Su International Dev., Inc.	09/12/2016 SMS-2016-X-076	Ocean View Resort Complex	Chalan Laulau, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
2. Stanley T. Torres	09/14/2016 SWm-2016-X-077	Land clearing and Subsistence Farming	Santa Lourdes, As Teo	Wetland	Under Review*
3. Saipan TV Production Inc.	09/26/2016 SSM-2016-X-085	Filming & Photography	Saipan	Shoreline	Approved, 10/3/2016
4. Pacific Marine Enterprise	09/27/2016 SPI-2016-X-084	Drydock	CPA Seaport, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 10/3/2016
5. Commonwealth Ports Authority	09/27/2016 SMS-2003-X-007 Amendment 2016-1	Replace perimeter fence	CPA Airport	Major Siting	Approved, 10/3/2016
6. Rota Department of Public Works	09/28/2016 RMS-2016-X-086	Coral Quarry Pit (Mining & Operations)	Igua, Rota	Major Siting	Under Review*
7. Fiesta Inc.	03/10/2016 SSm-02-X-211 Amendment 2016-1	3rd Floor Extension	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved, 9/30/2016
8. Agape Christian School	9/26/2016 SSCH-2016-X-063 Amendment 2017-1	School ground improvement project	Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan	Shoreline, Coastal Hazard	Approved, 10/4/2016
9. IT&E	09/26/2016 STRWSPIm-99-X-247 Amendment 2017-1	Fiber Optic Cable Installation	Saipan, Tinian, & Rota	Saipan Tinian, & Rota	Approved, 10/4/2016
10. Joeten Motors Company	09/29/2016 SSm-2016-X-089	Showroom Building	San Jose, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
11. Robert Bracken	10/6/2016 SPI-2017-X-01	Three storey commercial/ residential bldg.	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
12. Docomo Pacific	09/26/2016 S/T/RMS-2016-X-083	Fiber Optic Cable Installation	Saipan, Tinian, & Rota	Major Siting	Certified Complete 10/12/2016

§15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulation requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300 • Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Frances A. Castro
Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Guam-CNMI ATISA Fiber Optic Cable System project. The ATISA Fiber Optic Cable System will be linking the main islands of the CNMI with Guam, United States and Asia while offering CNMI residents with competitive rates on services and features. Docomo Pacific, Inc. proposes to lay a fiber optic cable on three main islands in the CNMI-Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. On Rota, the cable is proposed to land at the "CUC Sewer Outfall Corridor" in Songsong. On Tinian, the cable is proposed to land at Tachognya Beach in San Jose either at the southern or northern end of the beach. On Saipan, the cable is proposed to land at Abraham Place Road in Chalan Kanoa.

The public hearing is scheduled for November 02, 2016, at 5:00PM at the BECQ main conference room in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

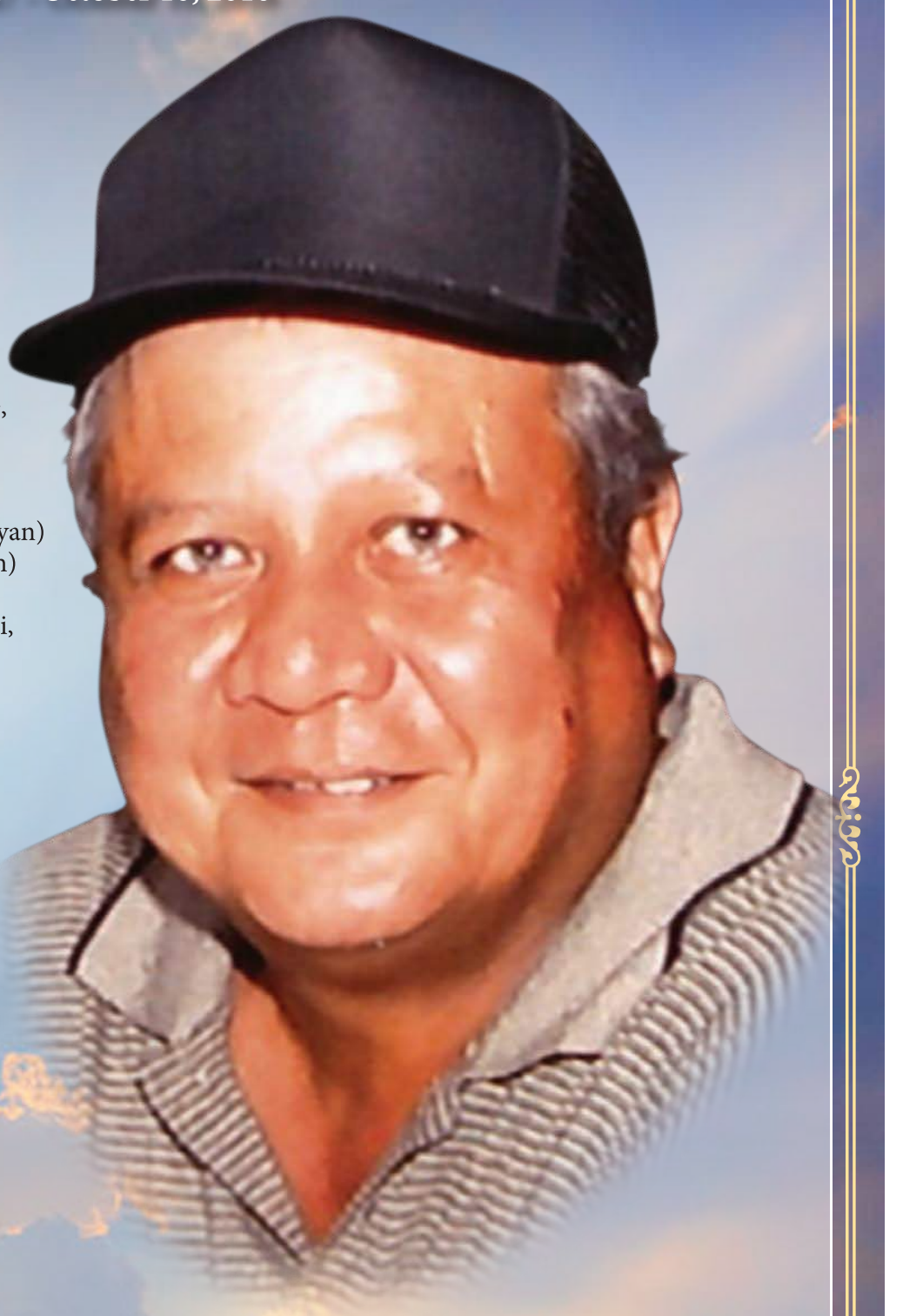
Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Grand Mariana Casino and Hotel project.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

In Celebration of His New Life

Manuel Quitano Sablan

November 09, 1947 – October 10, 2016



In his new life, he now joins his:

Father: Pedro Dela Torre Sablan
Parents-In-Law: Alejandro B. Barcinas & Remedio C. Barcinas
Brother-In-Law: Thomas C. Barcinas
Sister-In-Law: Elphidia C. Barcinas
Reared Brother-In-Law: Ernest M. Sablan

His memory will forever live in the hearts of his:

Mother: **Elena Quitano Sablan**
Wife: **Magdalena Barcinas Sablan**
Children: **Carline** (Andrew)
Paula & Norvin Deleon Guerrero (Jordyn Renae, Jenna Laureen & Alaina Grace)
Peter & Michelle (Emma James, Lennox Peter & Lourdes Estelle)
Yvonne & Brad Ngewakl (Pia Helene & Nolan Ryan)
Neil Ryan & Wilma (Ha'ane Mae & Kayleb Isaiah)
Elaine & Tim Asiavo (Ava Jenae)
Manny & Melissa Osada (Nathaniel, Jioni-Shenai, Lehonnie & Justin)
Colin & Carla
Kurt & Rochelle (Liana)

Sister: **Margaret Sablan McQuay**

Brothers, Sisters and In-Law:
Vicente & Helen Barcinas
Antonio & Ramona Barcinas
Marsha P. Barcinas
Donald & Tina Barcinas
Ray & Nenita San Nicolas
Rudy & Piding Sablan
Abraham & Helen Barcinas

Reared Brothers and Sisters:
Rita Q. Camacho
Vicente & Erika Camacho
Elizabeth C. Sablan
George Q. Camacho & Lydia Sablan
Juan & Luisa Camacho
Ellen Q. Camacho
Manuel Q. Camacho
Emerita Q. Camacho

He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions for the repose of his soul are being celebrated each morning at Kristo Rai Church, Garapan at 6:00 am.

Holy Rosary is being prayed nightly at 7:00 pm at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016. His remains will lie in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 10:00 am.

Responso Service and the Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am followed by Interment Services at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Magdalena Barcinas Sablan, Children and Family

Science & Technology

Justices raise doubts about $399M judgment against Samsung

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court raised serious doubts Tuesday about a $399 million judgment against smartphone maker Samsung for illegally copying parts of the patented design of Apple's iPhone.

Justices hearing arguments in the long-running dispute seemed troubled that Samsung was ordered to pay all the profits it earned from 11 phone models, even though the features at issue are just a tiny part of the devices.

But some justices struggled over how exactly a jury should be told to compute damages if the case is sent back to a lower court.

"If I were a juror, I wouldn't know what to do," said Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Justice Stephen Breyer appeared to embrace a test proposed by a group of internet companies including Facebook and Google that would outline new limits on such damage awards. Other justices seemed to favor a different test proposed by the Obama administration.

The outcome could have ripple effects across the high-tech industry as the court balances the need to encourage innovation against a desire to protect lucrative design patents.

The case is part of series of high-stakes lawsuits between the technology rivals that began in 2011. None of the early generation Samsung phones involved in the lawsuit remains on the market.

Cupertino, California-based Apple sued over South Korea-based Samsung's duplication of a handful of distinctive iPhone features for which Apple holds patents: the flat screen, the rounded rectangle shape of the phone, and the layout of icons on the screen.

The companies are wrangling over how much Samsung is required to compensate Apple under an 1887 law that requires patent infringers to pay "total profit." At issue is whether that means all the profits from phone sales, or just the profit related to the specific components that were copied.

Samsung says the hefty award ignores the fact that its phones contain more than 200,000 other patents that Apple does not own. Apple argues that the verdict is fair because the iPhone's success was directly tied to its distinctive look.

The federal appeals court in Washington that hears patent cases has ruled that Apple was entitled to all the profits.

Samsung's lawyer Kathleen Sullivan told the court that total profits should be limited only to the sliver of the product that was copied. She said the parties could use consumer surveys and other expert testimony to show how much the design affected sales.

The justices seemed open to the idea, but several kept wondering how it would play out using the example of the Volkswagen Beetle, a car with a quirky design that surged to popularity in the 1960s.

"It may be that the body accounts for only 10 percent of the cost of the car, but 90 percent of the profits are attributable to the shape of the car," Justice Sonia Sotomayor said.

But Justice Samuel Alito said the Beetle example was not that helpful.

"I can't get over the thought that nobody buys a car, even a Beetle, just because they like the way it looks," he said.

In Celebration of her new life

†Rosa Cruz
San Nicolas Norita

December 20, 1950 - October 12, 2016

In her new life she now joins her:
Parents: Juan Soriano San Nicolas
Francesca Flores Cruz Norita
Parents In Law: Baldomero N. Norita
Rosa Flores Norita

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Husband: Nicanor "Nick" Flores Norita
Children: Lani N. and Randy Pelisamen
Editha SN. Norita
Nicky Jr. SN. Norita
Vicente SN. Norita

She is additionally survived by numerous grandchildren, a great grandchild, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention for the repose of her soul is being celebrated every morning at 6:00am at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Holy Rosary is being prayed each evening at 7:30pm at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2016. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 am. Responso and Holy Rosary will be prayed upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Interment Service at Mt. Carmel cemetery.

Please join us in prayers,

Thank you - Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Olomwaay

Nicanor "Nick" Flores Norita, Children and Families

Off The Wall

UK's new 5 pound note has second use: It plays vinyl records

A currency exchange board with washed out rates in London, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016. AP

LONDON (AP)—The value of the British pound sterling may have been dropping in recent weeks but imaginative Brits have found a way to put cash to work: It turns out the new plastic five-pound-note can be used as a stylus to play vinyl records.

A number of YouTube videos have been posted in recent days showing the new note "playing" music on a turntable, though it must be said the fidelity does not match sound produced by expensive equipment.

The plastic note is illustrated with images of Queen Elizabeth II and Winston Churchill. It was introduced last month to generally favorable reviews.

The note is worth just over $6 at Wednesday's rate. The pound has been dropping largely because of concerns about Britain leaving the European Union.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Groom's mother goes for a walk, gets lost, delaying wedding

LANDAFF, N.H. (AP)—A New Hampshire wedding got a dose of unexpected drama when the groom's mother went missing for several hours. State police were told Sunday afternoon Philameana Guerino hadn't been seen for hours. The 72-year-old Massachusetts woman was in Landaff, New Hampshire, to attend the wedding and had gone for a walk in the woods. Several troopers responded with conservation officers from New Hampshire Fish and Game and a K-9 unit. The state police also used a Reverse 911 call through the Grafton County sheriff's office to notify residents in a 5-mile area. Guerino was found an hour and a half later. She had gotten lost on her walk. State police say on their Facebook page the wedding was delayed several hours but the bride and groom "definitely have a story for the future."

Thief makes off with trailer used as mobile pretzel parlor

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—It's a twisted crime: Someone stole the Pretzel Chef trailer, a food truck that operates in Fairbanks, Alaska. The Pretzel Chef is a fixture at summer events such as the Tanana (TA-nah-naw) Valley State Fair, selling pretzels in various flavors, including a pizza pretzel. Co-owner Michelle Hajdukovich (heye-DOOK-oh-vich) tells the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner that the white, 14-foot trailer had been parked for the winter. It has a concession window taking up most of one side, and inside, two ovens, cheese pumps, a cooler and a cash register. The loss is estimated at $30,000. Hajdukovich says the trailer looks like a "toy hauler" that could be used for carrying four-wheelers or snowmobiles. She says she hopes the thief will abandon the trailer once it's found to be a food truck.

Police in Kansas town use Facebook in hunt for owner of meth

CHERRYVALE, Kan. (AP)—Police in the tiny town of Cherryvale, Kansas, looking to track down the owner of an abandoned gram of crystal meth have taken their case to social media. A bag with methamphetamine was found Sept. 29 at a convenience store in the southeast Kansas community of about 2,300 people. So Cherryvale police politely posted about it on the department's Facebook page. The post reads: "We are very concerned and would like to find the owner so please notify us and describe the packaging and we will see what we can do for you." It's been shared nearly 1,700 times. But Police Chief Perry Lambert says no one has come forward as the owner of the illegal stimulant—though he says he's hopeful.

Eagle freed in Hurricane Matthew aftermath from car grill

GREEN COVE SPRINGS, Fla. (AP)—A bald eagle that somehow managed to get wedged in the front grill of a Florida car was freed unharmed after a passing motorist noticed the bird just after Hurricane Matthew roared past the area. The Clay County Sheriff's Office says a resident of the Fleming Island area south of Jacksonville noticed the bird peering out of a passing car Saturday in the storm's aftermath. The resident urged the motorist to pull over. The sheriff's department says rescue personnel and deputies were able to work the bird free. It was taken to a wildlife sanctuary in Jacksonville but authorities say the eagle appears to be unharmed. Photos posted of the eagle on the sheriff's office Facebook page show it standing on two feet in a cage.

Life & Style

MGM: We own 'Apprentice,' can't easily release tapes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—With public clamor growing for the release of footage from Donald Trump's reign on "The Apprentice," entertainment giant MGM said Wednesday that it owns the reality TV show, not the program's executive producer Mark Burnett, and could not unilaterally release any unaired, archived material due to existing contractual obligations.

MGM attorney Marvin S. Putnam said in a statement that such agreements "typically contain provisions related to confidentiality and artists' rights." He said MGM, which purchased Mark Burnett Productions in December, would honor those rights.

In the same joint statement, Burnett said he has never been a supporter of Trump's candidacy. He said he felt compelled to issue that statement because of what he called "false media reports" about his supposed support. He said that he and his wife "reject the hatred, division and misogyny" that have been "a very unfortunate part" of Trump's campaign.

On Monday, in a joint statement, Burnett said that he doesn't have the ability or the right to release footage from the long-running show hosted by the Republican presidential nominee.

MGM said, "Various contractual and legal requirements also restrict MGM's ability to release such material."

Wednesday's statement came in response to repeated Associated Press requests since Monday for elaboration of why the footage was still being kept private.

The AP previously had asked Burnett to provide original "Apprentice" footage for review, and asked again last week, after publishing a story detailing statements by former cast and crew that Trump frequently used lewd, demeaning and sexist language while on set and pointed out which contestants he would like to have sex with.

MGM and Burnett also did not answer questions regarding whether Trump has any contractual or rights-related authority that would prevent release of any unaired material.

Trump campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks did not respond to emails and calls seeking information about whether Trump had any control over the footage.

In the meantime, public pressure continued to mount from former contestants, Democrats and a prominent attorney for someone to release whatever raw footage exists from 14 seasons of programming.

The call for disclosure has been gradually increasing since Friday's release of a separate recording on which Trump talks about aggressively groping women on a different show, "Access Hollywood," as the candidate prepared to appear on a soap opera.

On the tape, the married Trump brags about kissing and trying to have casual sex with women, even ones who are married. He also used vulgar slang to describe how, if you are a star, you can grab a woman's genital area. Trump has since apologized, but also described his comments as "locker room talk" and dismissed them as a distraction.

Wonder, Aguilera among performers to honor Prince at concert

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Stevie Wonder, Christina Aguilera and Chaka Khan are among the featured performers who will pay tribute to Prince at a Minnesota concert Thursday night.

Tori Kelly, Anita Baker and Doug E. Fresh also are included in the lineup at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Prince's ex-wife, Mayte Garcia, has been added to the concert, and Prince will be represented by members of his inner circle, including Morris Day & The Time, Judith Hill and Liv Warfield.

Pop star John Mayer bowed out, citing a "change of schedule," concert promoter Randy Levy told the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

The Prince family-sanctioned concert originally was planned for the Minnesota Vikings' new U.S. Bank Stadium in downtown Minneapolis, but was moved to the smaller Xcel Energy Center, home of the NHL's Minnesota Wild.

Prince's family initially announced the concert in late July, but details did not emerge until September. The wait frustrated Prince fans across the country who already had made travel plans without any guarantee of tickets. But organizer L. Londell McMillan, a longtime attorney for the late superstar, said it took time to put the details together because so many artists were involved.

McMillan told The Associated Press the change from U.S. Bank Stadium to Xcel Energy Center was a "business and creative decision." While the St. Paul arena seats up to 20,000, compared with up to 55,000 for concerts at the stadium, its acoustics are considered good for a hockey arena.

Fans quickly snapped up tickets when they went on sale last month.

AP

In this June 12, 2016 file photo, John Mayer of Dead & Company performs at Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn.

Janet Jackson confirms pregnancy at age 50

NEW YORK (AP)—Janet Jackson has confirmed she's pregnant at 50.

The star showed off her baby bump in a photo Wednesday, smiling in a white dress and cradling her belly.

She told People, "We thank God for our blessing."

In April, Jackson said she was postponing her Unbreakable World Tour the following month to focus on "planning" a family with husband Wissam Al Mana.

She has kept a low profile since but was recently spotted shopping for baby gear at a London furniture store.

Nepal's most popular Buddhist nun is a musical rock star

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—There is one Buddhist nun everyone in Nepal knows by name—not because she's a religious icon and a UNICEF goodwill ambassador, nor for her work running a girl's school and a hospital for kidney patients.

Ani Choying Drolma is famous as one of the country's biggest pop stars.

With more than 12 albums of melodious Nepali tunes and Tibetan hymns that highlight themes of peace and harmony, the songstress in saffron robes has won hearts across the Himalayan nation and abroad.

"I am totally against the conservative, conventional idea of a Buddhist nun," the 45-year-old nun said. Some people "think a Buddhist nun should be someone who does not come out in the media so much, who is isolated ... always in a monastery, always shy. But I don't believe in that."

Neither do her fans, who greet her with a roar of applause whenever she walks out on stage, and fall silent as she closes her eyes to sing.

"Every time I get frustrated with life or get angry, I just listen to Ani's music and I calm down," said one fan, Sunil Tuladhar. "She is my music goddess."

Mom balks at supervising ex's visits with daughters

DEAR ABBY: I was married to my husband for 15 years and we have a set of preteen twins. After he was arrested and put in prison for possession of child pornography, I divorced him. After much counseling, it was determined that he had not hurt our children.

He will be released soon, and I don't want to see him. However, my twins do want to see their father. He is not allowed unsupervised visits, and I don't trust his family to watch him closely. Must I suck it up and let him visit with me present for our children's sake, or would it be better to cut ties completely and let him fight with the courts?

ANGRY AND DISGUSTED

DEAR ANGRY AND DISGUSTED: Are there any relatives from your side of the family who would be willing to be present? If there are, that might be a solution. However, if there aren't, this is something you should discuss with a lawyer because the courts sometimes provide individuals who can supervise visitation.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I moved to Maryland from Florida to be closer to my mom because my dad passed away last March. Since we've been here, my husband has been acting strange. He seems super stressed out, and he is hanging out with people I don't know and staying out until all hours of the night. I'm worried that I may have done something wrong that is causing him to act like this. Please help.

CONCERNED IN THE EAST

DEAR CONCERNED: When couples marry, they usually socialize together, not separately. It is far more likely that your HUSBAND is doing something wrong "that is causing him to act like this" than anything you have done. Your husband may have fallen in with a crowd of singles, drinkers—or heaven knows what. It's time to have a frank talk with him and get to the bottom of what's going on, because something definitely is.

DEAR ABBY: I have a problem with a friend I play golf with twice a week. We are part of a group of 12 retired men, and one golfer is an extremely slow player. By slow, I mean taking a long time between golf shots, checking yardages and taking numerous practice swings before playing. Meanwhile, the rest of us are waiting for him, and we feel pressured to make up the time so our group doesn't fall behind on the course.

We have all mentioned it to him, but it seems to roll off his back. It is getting to the point that no one wants to play in his foursome. What's the best way to handle this?

SLOW BURN IN AUGUSTA

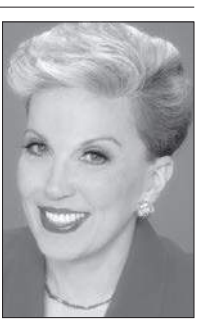
DEAR SLOW BURN: It is unfair to the group for one player to create this kind of problem for the other 11. Since talking to him about it has had no effect, the person closest to him should speak to him privately and point out that his slow play is creating stress for everyone, and he should either eliminate the problem or play with a different group of golfers.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

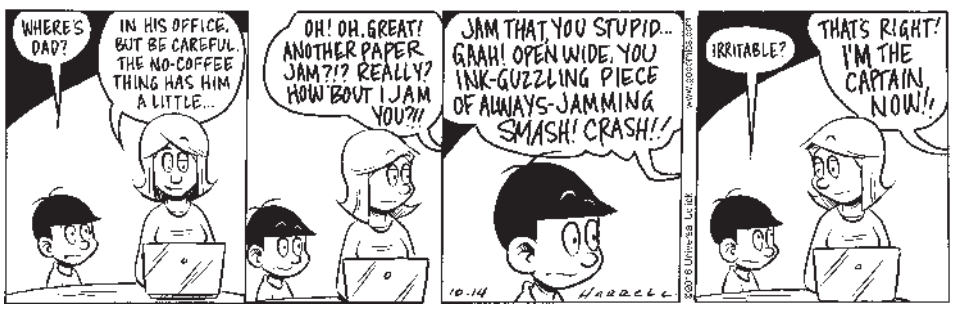
I'VE DECIDED I WANT TO BE A MILLIONAIRE WHEN I GROW UP.
WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK PRETTY HARD TO GET A MILLION DOLLARS.
NO, I WON'T
YOU WILL.
ME?
I JUST WANT TO INHERIT IT.
10 14

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHERE'S DAD?
IN HIS OFFICE. BUT BE CAREFUL. THE NO-COFFEE THING HAS HIM A LITTLE...
OH! OH, GREAT! ANOTHER PAPER JAM?!? REALLY? HOW 'BOUT I JAM YOU?!!
JAM THAT, YOU STUPID... GRAAH! OPEN WIDE, YOU INK-GUZZLING PIECE OF ALWAYS-JAMMING SMASH! CRASH!!
IRRITABLE?
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M THE CAPTAIN, NOW!!
10-14

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS SAYS THE WORLD RECORD FOR WATCHING TV IS 94 HOURS.
HA! AMATEURS!
REALLY? IT SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY LONG TIME TO ME.
PHHHT. I COULD BEAT THAT IN ONE DAY!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Carte lead-in
4 Goad
8 Spiced tea
12 Debtor's letters
13 McNally partner
14 Give temporarily
15 City in a Merle Haggard song
17 Russian river
18 Glazier's sheet
19 Overact
20 Existence
22 Guys' dates
24 Bank statement no.
25 "Wow!"
29 Anger
30 Flies alone
31 Samovar
32 University founded by Booker T. Washington
34 Peevish fit
35 Fermi's bit
36 Vaults
37 Stinks
40 Bigfoot's cousin
41 "— Lisa"
42 Window washer's tool
46 Tend texts
47 Big swig
48 Bad spell
49 Zilch
50 Low digits
51 Ring decision, briefly

DOWN

1 Goal
2 Singer Rawls
3 Sponsorship
4 Tine
5 Fury
6 Single
7 HST follower
8 Oafish
9 Long lunch?
10 Body sci.
11 Not busy
16 Philosopher Immanuel
19 Right angles
20 Lure
21 Off-white
22 Robot of Jewish folklore
23 Lotion additive
25 Type of dancer
26 Oater showdown
27 New York canal
28 Tolkien creatures
30 Wimbledon divisions
33 Chopping spree?
34 Fill up
36 Leaks slowly
37 Portent
38 Nitwit
39 Getting — years
40 Christmas
42 Pvt.'s superior
43 Status follower
44 "A mouse!"
45 Outer (Pref.)

Solution time: 26 mins.

S	P	A	R		H	I	S		A	L	A	N
T	U	T	U		O	N	O		L	A	R	A
A	R	T	S		I	S	R		I	N	C	·I
B	R	A	H	M	S		C	A	S	T		
			J	E	T	S	F	T	T	F	R	S
T	A	R	O	T		A	R	M		R	O	O
G	L	I	B		A	N	Y		K	N	O	W
I	A	N		A	N	E		D	I	S	K	S
F	I	G	H	T	E	R	J	E	T			
			S	I	A	M		A	S	T	R	A
A	V	I	V		O	S	U		E	E	L	Y
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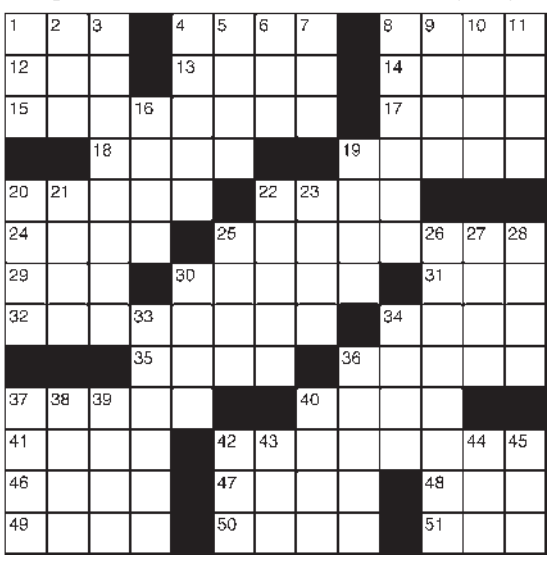
S	E	E	S		E	S	T		S	P	I	N

Yesterday's answer 10-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Stacy Keibler, 37; Usher, 38; Natalie Maines, 42; Roger Moore, 89.

Happy Birthday: Make positive changes to the way you look and do things and you will discover talents and skills you didn't know you had. Developing and putting ideas into play will lead to new possibilities regarding how you earn your living. Expand your knowledge and share your plans. Romance is in the stars and will improve your personal life. Your numbers are 5, 13, 25, 27, 33, 36, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Emotions will flare up when dealing with partnership issues. Whether it's a personal or professional connection, disagreements are likely. Step back, be diplomatic and you will discover a peaceful way to move forward. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Tie up loose ends before someone notices that you have fallen behind. It's twice as difficult to move forward if you aren't prepared. Dealing with institutions and government agencies will prove challenging. Don't get angry; get busy. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Check out all possibilities and discuss your options with experienced individuals. Question, negotiate and do your best not to fall into a trap that might jeopardize your reputation or financial future. Look at all your options before making a change. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take one step at a time. Question anything that doesn't appear to be clear or right. Don't let pressure turn into a costly misunderstanding. Make your position clear and be prepared to move on. Avoid mind games. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Mixing emotions and personal relationships with learning and getting ahead will leave you in an awkward position. Question the relationships you have with people who put demands on you, your time or your cash. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A change in your financial standing will prompt you to make a residential or domestic change. Mixing business with pleasure can be fortuitous, but not if it entails reconnecting with people who have given you a hard time in the past. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look inward and you'll discover what you can improve about the way you deal with your peers and superiors. Start by making personal changes that will alter the way you present who you are. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get together with people who have something to contribute to an idea you are trying to get off the ground. The suggestions made will help you mold the perfect plan. Personal upgrades and physical improvements are favored. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Give what you are trying to achieve your best shot and you will succeed. Your ability to manipulate situations and get others to see things your way will add to your personal happiness. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your travel plans will face delays due to improper information or documentation. Stay focused on a job you are working on and put your own touch on how it turns out. Don't allow an emotional incident to ruin your day. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Check out the online job market and something will stand out as a new possibility. Update your resume to suit the direction you choose. Negotiate on your own behalf when dealing with financial, legal or contractual matters. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): The key to your success will be to set your mind on an accomplishment. If you want to pursue love, improve your appearance or take on a new challenge. Stop procrastinating and start heading in that direction. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, objective and helpful. You are creative and intense.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7		8	9	2		1	
9				7				5
		2	7		3	5		
		4	6		8	3		
3				6				4
	6		2	1	9		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	3	2	6	1	5	7	4
1	5	2	7	4	9	3	8	6
7	6	4	5	8	3	9	1	2
2	4	5	6	9	8	7	3	1
6	1	8	3	5	7	2	4	9
3	7	9	4	1	2	8	6	5
9	2	1	8	7	6	4	5	3
4	3	7	1	2	5	6	9	8
5	8	6	9	3	4	1	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THAT'S A WRAP! Solution: 7 letters

S	G	S	K	T	S	N	I	K	S	S	S	E	R	D
K	N	H	N	L	A	E	C	A	R	B	M	E	I	T
C	I	A	E	E	C	O	U	C	H	A	B	A	E	U
U	X	W	E	G	L	H	C	R	O	P	R	U	B	R
R	O	L	A	C	I	N	A	T	O	B	Q	M	A	B
T	B	U	B	B	L	E	A	R	S	U	L	A	S	A
A	H	C	I	W	D	N	A	S	O	N	E	S	K	N
E	D	O	O	F	K	G	O	B	R	L	W	N	E	T
H	P	A	K	L	I	L	L	A	A	A	I	P	T	F
W	L	L	E	C	T	O	E	N	D	K	A	Y	S	I
E	A	T	A	H	U	W	I	D	P	C	G	M	N	Ⓖ
L	T	R	G	S	M	F	L	A	I	L	O	M	A	Ⓤ
O	T	I	E	I	T	E	N	G	T	I	T	U	I	Ⓜ
H	E	K	W	H	A	I	R	E	A	N	Z	M	L	E
W	R	S	G	N	I	L	C	O	V	E	R	U	P	T

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 10/14

Ankle, Arms, Bandage, Baskets, Blouse, Botanical, Bouquet, Boxing, Braid, Bubble, Cape, Cigar, Cling, Clock, Coat, Couch, Cover Up, Dress, Embrace, Finale, Food, Gauze, Gift, Gum, Hair, Head, Knee, Leg, Line, Mummy, Nail, Napkin, Pita, Plastic, Platter, Porch, Sandwich, Shawl, Skin, Skirt, Swaddle, Swimwear, Toga, Towels, Trucks, Turban, Weight Loss, Whole Wheat

Yesterday's Answer: Breakfast

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Job Vacancy Announcement

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P.O. Box 503317 CK,
Saipan, MP 96950

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Qualified Women, Minorities Veterans and persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

MGS
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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or equivalent, at least 3 years of relevant experience, computer proficient, and good communication skills.

Applications are available at www.marianasgeotech.com and at the Marianas Geotech Services (MGS) office in Dandan. Submit applications by **5:00 p.m. on October 21, 2016**, to Carmen Borja at admin@marianasgeotech.com or at the MGS office. For more information, please contact 234-7645.

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Century Tours, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate, Full Time (1)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than October 18, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

CORAL OCEAN GOLF RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Salary: $6.55 to $7.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least from a few month to a year of related work experienced. First Aide and CPR Certified, swimmer or a certified lifeguard. He/She must be familiar with the safe handling of pool chemicals and the process to clean and sanitize the area. Possess a friendly, good moral character and good communications skills. Fit to work under the sun and willing to work in flexible shifts, in all weather conditions, days, evenings, weekend and holidays. Company may require swimming test.

Suwaso Corporation would like to invite all qualified US workers to send/submit their resume/application form to Recruit.COGR@eland.co.kr. Please provide at least two recommendation letter and proof of certification for the position, if needed. Application form is available in the hotel lobby and HR office. Incomplete application form may not be considered for assessment. Please fill up the form completely prior submission. No phone call please.

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Utley lifts Dodgers to 6-5 win over Nats to force Game 5

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Clayton Kershaw was out of the game, his head down in the dugout, the Los Angeles bullpen faltering and the season slipping away.

Chase Utley plucked the Dodgers from the brink, singling home the tiebreaking run with two outs in the eighth inning.

Suddenly, Game 5 was on the horizon.

One more chance to pursue the club's first World Series appearance in 28 years.

"There is no quit in this team," closer Kenley Jansen said.

The Dodgers avoided elimination Tuesday with a 6-5 victory over the Washington Nationals that forced a deciding game in their NL playoff.

Jansen worked the ninth for a save, one day after giving up four late runs during Los Angeles' loss in Game 3.

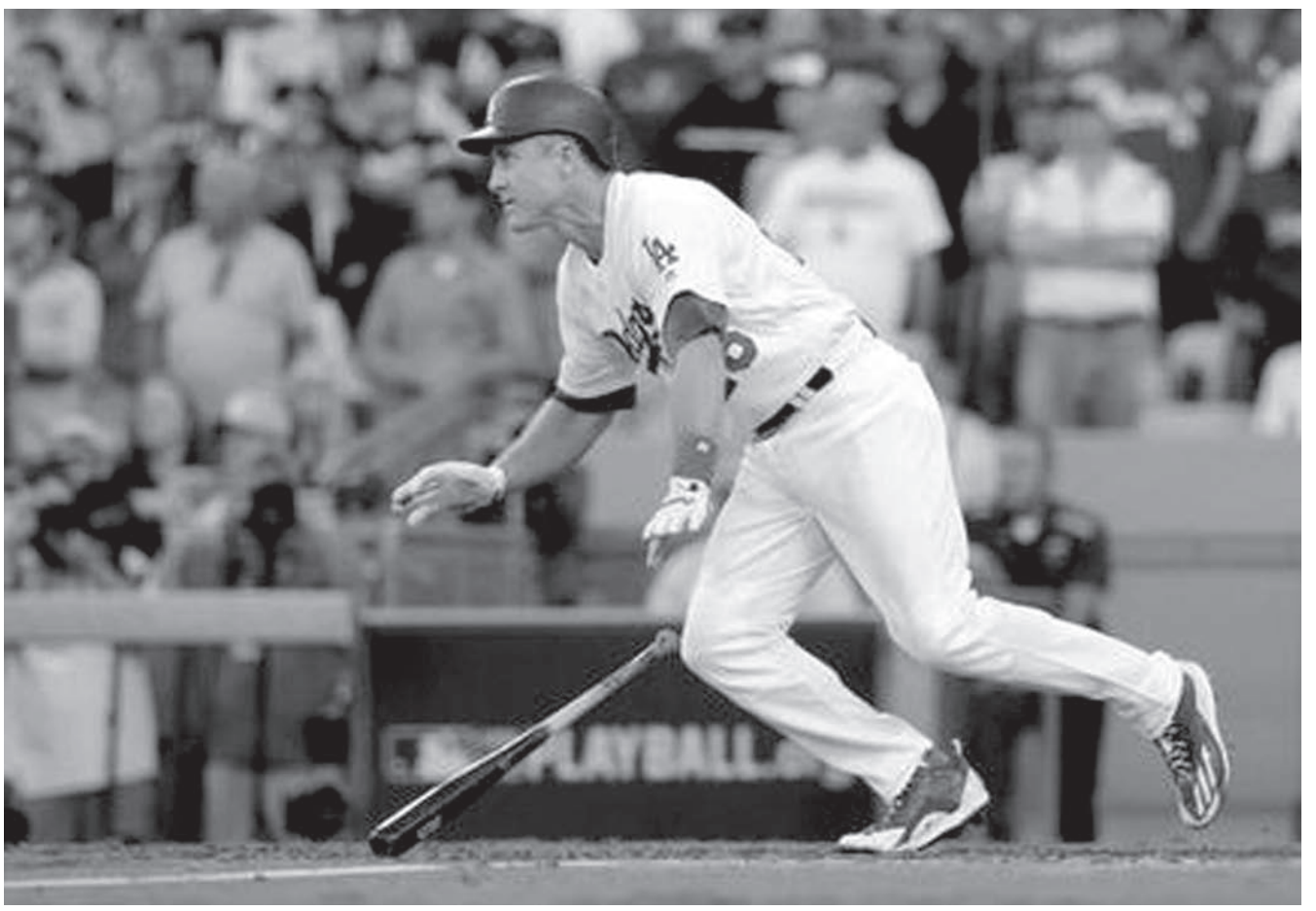
"I got out there and focused and fought," he said.

The finale is Thursday in Washington, with 20-game winner Max Scherzer set to pitch for the Nationals.

"Man, this is going to be a heck of a ballgame," he said. "The effort from both sides over the first four games has been incredible. Great pitching, great hitting, defense, everything."

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said he will use left-hander Rich Hill and rookie Julio Urias, but did not announce which one will start. Hill is expected to get the ball first.

"If anyone gives up on this team, they haven't seen us play a whole lot this year," Roberts said, "and it starts with what Clayton did—short rest and leaving it all out there. Everyone fed off that."



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Chase Utley watches his RBI-single during the eighth inning in Game 4 of a baseball National League Division Series against the Washington Nationals in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2016.

Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run homer for the Dodgers, who turned to Kershaw on three days' rest to salvage their season.

The score was tied 5-all with two outs in the eighth when Andrew Toles got hit by a pitch from loser Blake Treinen. Ethier followed with a single to left and Utley singled to right, scoring Toles from second for a 6-5 lead.

Trailing 5-2 in the seventh, the Nats had runners on first and second against Kershaw with two outs. The crowd chanted Kershaw's name as he and Bryce Harper battled through eight pitches before Harper drew a walk.

"Man, that's what baseball is all about right there—a matter of will," Nats manager Dusty Baker said. "Kershaw was on empty. We knew it. They knew it. Everybody knew it."

Harper's walk loaded the bases and chased Kershaw, who walked off with his head down. He sat alone in the dugout with his head resting on his right hand.

"Kershaw was outstanding," Baker said. "That's one of the best performances I've seen, especially on three days' rest."

But the Dodgers' bullpen nearly gave the game away.

Pedro Baez came in and hit Jayson Werth with his only pitch, forcing in a run to make it 5-3. Baez got booed off the field.

Daniel Murphy's single off Luis Avilan dropped between Toles and Joc Pederson in left-center field, scoring two runs to tie it at 5. Avilan also heard boos.

Joe Blanton, who earned the win, retired Anthony Rendon on a swinging strikeout to end the inning.

"Our bullpen has been unbelievable," Kershaw said. "Joe did what Joe's been doing all season. He's been through a lot in his career but he came in and shut them down."

After failing to close out the Dodgers on the road, Washington gets one more chance to win a playoff series for the first time since the franchise relocated from Montreal. NL East champions in three of the past five years, the Nationals were unable to advance during their two previous trips to the postseason.

"That's why we fought so hard for the home-field advantage," Baker said. "This year, it's coming to fruition."

Desperate to avoid another early playoff exit, the Dodgers went with Kershaw, their three-time Cy Young Award winner who won Game 1 last Friday despite going just five innings and allowing three runs.

This time, he was charged with five runs and seven hits in 6 2/3 innings. He struck out 11—equaling his second-best postseason total—and walked two.

The left-hander was limited to 149 innings while compiling a 1.69 ERA during the regular season. He missed 2 1/2 months with a mildly herniated disk in his back.

Kershaw opened the game by giving up a leadoff single and a walk before Murphy's RBI single.

The Dodgers took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the inning on Gonzalez's two-run shot that scored Justin Turner, who was hit by a pitch from Joe Ross.

Werth's RBI single tied it 2-all in the third.

Los Angeles again answered in the bottom of the inning, with Kershaw getting the rally going with a double to left field. He slid into second and clenched his fists in a rare show of emotion.

Kershaw scored on Turner's single with two outs. Pederson got hit by a pitch from Ross with the bases loaded, forcing in Turner

Ross made his postseason debut for the Nationals, giving up four runs and three hits in 2 2/3 innings, equaling the shortest playoff start in the history of the Montreal-Washington franchise. The 23-year-old right-hander struck out three and walked two. He hasn't pitched more than four innings since coming off the disabled list on Sept. 18.

Curses, schmurses: Kids confident in Chicago Cubs

CHICAGO (AP)—Kaitlin Reap didn't listen when her dad tried to warn her about the lifetime of misery waiting for her if she cheered for the Chicago Cubs. She rejected his invitation to share with him the joys of being a St. Louis Cardinals fan. And all his talk about curses simply guaranteed him a daughter who wants nothing to do with goats.

"I want to be a Cubs fan," said Kaitlin, a 9-year-old third grader at Saint Andrew School, less than a mile from Wrigley Field. "I think they're going to win."

Cubs fans everywhere are hoping for a World Series champion for the first time since 1908, and they have a loaded team this time, one the piled up the most wins in the majors this season. But there is also fear - the kind of fear that is handed down from generation to generation in Chicago, the kind that comes from heartbreak after heartbreak, the kind that is fed by billy goat curses (1945), black cats (1969) and infamous plays (looking at you, Steve Bartman).

Cubs fans know this feeling as well as they know their way to the friendly confines. They've grown up with it.

Except, that is, for the fans who haven't finished growing up.

For Kaitlin and her schoolmates, there is optimism that the Cubs will win it all this year and, if not, they will certainly end the long championship drought by the time they leave Saint Andrew. At nearby Hawthorne Scholastic Academy, the only fear is that the principal won't let them out of class to watch the parade they know is coming.

The way these kids see it, all those older fans are being a little silly.

"People are a little paranoid (because) it hasn't happened but it might be a coincidence that they haven't won in a while," said Max Oldham, an 11-year-old sixth grader at Saint Andrew.

All that talk about paranoia, not to mention referring to a 108 years as "a while," might have something to do with parents who have protected their children from what they know and what they have witnessed for themselves.

"We have not told him about Bartman," said Cy Oldham, who saw what unfolded from the left field bleachers after she and her husband decided to postpone their honeymoon so they could attend the playoffs. "We try not to dwell on that time (and) it is not something we want to sit down and say, so, 'Let me tell you how bad things used to be.'"

Addison Casavechia could not help knowing about those times, not with a first name that her parents chose because they liked the way it sounded and because Wrigley Field is on Addison Street. That might explain why the 11-year-old sixth grader doesn't think the Cubs will win it all this year.

"I have my bets for next year because we'll have Kyle Schwarber back," she said of the player who suffered a season-ending knee injury early this season.

Her mother, the assistant principal at Saint Andrew, doesn't want to see her daughter suffer. But Sarah Casavechia also sees rooting for the Cubs as part of growing up in Chicago.

"I think being a Cubs fan is like taking a leap of faith every year, it's like falling in love," she said. "You know there's a chance you're going to get your heart broken but you do it anyway."

That's not to say the kids haven't taken steps they hope might prevent the kind of misery that their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents experienced in seasons past.

Bennett Patterson, a 12-year-old seventh grader at Hawthorne, makes sure to watch Cubs games accompanied by one of the white flags with the blue W on it, the kind the Cubs have been flying for years after a win and now wave from houses and car antennas all over the city.

These being the playoffs, Patterson knows he has to take things a step further: "I wear a W flag as a cape to watch the game."

Danny Weber doesn't know exactly what he will wear for every game, but it will be blue and will have the Cubs logo on it. But he knows what he will be eating every night for dinner: Rice and vegetables. It seems that growing up in the Weber family means enjoying rice and vegetables whenever the Cubs make the playoffs.

"My grandma did it, my dad has done it and now they are telling me to do it," he said.

Weber sees it as a small price to pay, and dismisses any suggestion that the strategy hasn't worked in more than a century.

"It did work last year because last year they (the Cubs) got half way," he said.

As for Kaitlin, she doesn't believe her team is cursed. Still, she had something to say after her dad told her about Billy Sianis, who put a curse on the Cubs after the team wouldn't let his goat attend the 1945 World Series.

"I am a little mad at that goat," she said.

Judge refuses to declare mistrial in Rose rape case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lawyers for a woman who filed a lawsuit accusing NBA star Derrick Rose and two of his friends of rape failed to disclose text messages to the defense, but the lapse was not significant enough to derail the civil trial, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Lawyers for Rose had argued that the plaintiff's lawyers purposely withheld three texts until the woman finished testifying so the defense couldn't ask about messages that showed she had been plotting sex on the night in question and, on the following day, was seeking taxi reimbursement and not accusing anyone of rape.

The woman's lawyers said the texts did not add new information. They claimed they were shared with the defense, though they couldn't prove it.

AP
New York Knicks' Derrick Rose arrives at Federal Court in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016.

U.S. District Court Judge Michael W. Fitzgerald said the accuser's legal team had failed its legal obligation to share the texts, but there was a "minimal amount of prejudice" against Rose and his friends.

The judge said he would instruct jurors that the texts were disclosed recently and allow defense lawyers to question the accuser about the messages.

"I'm not going to dismiss it now," Fitzgerald said. "I'm not going to declare a mistrial when we have a jury in the box."

The woman suing Rose and two friends for $21.5 million claims she was raped while incapacitated three years ago.

Text messages have played a central role in the case, providing a rough chronology and also helping explain what happened at a time when she said she blacked out from drinking and possibly some drug. During that time, she continued sending coherent messages to Rose.

Dr. Ernest Lykissa, a toxicologist hired by the defense, testified that the woman couldn't have been as drunk as she claimed and been able to text so clearly.

LeBron blasts Trump's crude 'trash talk,' Brady avoids topic

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—LeBron James blasted Donald Trump's crude remarks about women, calling it "trash talk" while refusing to even say the Republican presidential nominee's name. Tom Brady walked away from a news conference when asked about the candidate he has previously supported.

The responses Wednesday from two of the biggest superstars in sports showed how much the 2005 video Trump has dismissed as "locker room talk" reverberated through the athletic world, with a growing list of current and former professional athletes weighing in on Trump's vulgar comments about grabbing women's genitals and trying to have sex with married women besides his own wife.

"What is locker room talk to me? It's not what that guy said," James said. "We don't disrespect women in no shape or fashion in our locker room. That never comes up. Obviously, I got a mother-in-law, a wife, a mom and a daughter and those conversations just don't go on in our locker room."

James, who led the Cleveland Cavaliers to the NBA championship last season, said the conversations he's used to hearing in the dressing room have to do more with family, game strategy and other sports-related banter.

"What that guy was saying, I don't know what that is. That's trash talk," he said.

Trump's opponent, Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton retweeted video of the NBA star's reaction to Trump's comments on her Twitter account. Clinton received an endorsement from James earlier this month.

Meanwhile in Massachusetts, Brady had no interest in wading into the issue when asked at the end of his weekly news conference about how he would respond if his kids heard Trump's version of "locker room talk."

The Patriots quarterback smiled, then said, "Thank you guys, have a good day," and walked away.

Brady was spotted with one of Trump's "Make America Great Again" hats in his locker last year. He walked back a comment he made saying he thought it "would be great" if Trump became president, saying it was an example of why he tries to say as little as possible when speaking publicly. He had also joked about Trump possibly putting a putting green on the White House lawn.

Brady and Trump have golfed together, and Trump has mentioned Brady's support on the campaign trail.

In Houston, Texans linebacker Jadeveon Clowney said his teammates don't speak as Trump described.

"We keep it clean," Clowney said. "I don't know where he (gets) that from. I have to check him on that. We don't use that tone in here."

Trump apologized for the comments in the video and tried to downplay them in a debate this week as words only.

Anthony Davis' status for Pelicans opener up in the air

Anthony Davis was flat on his back, grabbing his right ankle and wincing in pain. And now the New Orleans Pelicans can only wonder if their best player will be ready for opening night.

Davis sprained his ankle Wednesday in a preseason game against the Houston Rockets in Beijing, part of the NBA Global Games. The All-Star center was unable to play when last season ended because of shoulder and knee problems, and this season is presumably going to begin with him facing yet another injury issue.

"It's very frustrating," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "It's very frustrating in that we can't seem to get a rhythm or we can't seem to put the team together because there's always someone missing."

Davis has never played in more than 68 games in a regular season for New Orleans, missing an average of 17 contests in each of his first four seasons. He needed surgery on his left knee to fix a problem in March.

Davis was scheduled for more evaluation on his ankle Thursday, when the team is back in New Orleans. The Pelicans' 13-hour flight home from Beijing was scheduled to land around 2:40 a.m. Eastern time.

New Orleans used 42 different starting lineups in 82 games last season—only one of those lineups for more than six games. And this season is starting with an array of injury concerns for the Pelicans, even before Davis got hurt when he was going against Houston center Nene during the first quarter.

Guard E'Twaun Moore (right heel contusion) got hurt Wednesday as well. Tyreke Evans and Quincy Pondexter didn't even make the trip to China while dealing with the aftermath of knee surgeries, and starting point guard Jrue Holiday is out indefinitely to be with his wife, former U.S. soccer star Lauren Holiday—who was diagnosed with a brain tumor while pregnant with the couple's first child.

The Holiday's daughter was born last month, and Lauren Holiday is expected to have surgery to remove the benign tumor later this fall. ***(AP)***

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GCA 1 and 2 extend streak; split for SIS

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy's two teams are on a roll, while Saipan International School posted contrasting results in the middle school division of the 2016-2017 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League.

GCA 1 is 10-0, pending the result of its game against Marianas Baptist Academy yesterday. The Eagles bagged their 10th victory last Tuesday after sweeping Whispering Palms at the GCA court, 25-7, 25-10, 15-12. In its Oct. 6 game, GCA 1 also won over Agape Christian School, 25-7, 25-6.

GCA 2, on the other hand, are on a three-game winning streak, starting its run on Oct. 6 with a 16-25, 25-10, 15-13 victory against Whispering Palms at the Eagles' turf. Then last Tuesday, GCA 2 prevailed over Mt. Carmel School 2, 25-8, 25-20, while the Eagles faced Seventh Day Adventist yesterday and took a 25-10, 25-12 triumph to improve its record to 7-4.

In other results, SDA pulled off an upset over the second-running SIS 1 last Tuesday, 19-25, 25-23, 15-13, while SIS 2 avoided a Geckos shutdown after topping Agape, 25-21, 25-19. The defending champion SIS 1 fell to a 10-2 mark, while SIS 2 gained a 2-8 slate.

Saipan Community defeated MBA last Tuesday, 25-21, 25-5,9-15. The Tsunamis also got the early win in their Oct. 4 match versus SDA, 25-13, 25-22.

The middle school league is on the second and final round of the regular season and games will resume on Tuesday.

GCA 1 hopes to extend its streak next week when it takes on SDA at the Eagles court. GCA 2 will aim for its eighth victory when it faces Agape at the Torchbearers' turf. Other pairings in the Oct. 18 matches are Mt. Carmel School 1 vs. Whispering Palms at MCS; SIS 2 vs. MBA at MBA; and SIS 1 vs. SCS at SIS.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Grace Christian Academy 1 player eyes a return during their first round match against Whispering Palms at the WPS court.

Panthers QB Newton returns to practice, takes 1st-team reps

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Panthers quarterback Cam Newton returned to practice Wednesday, although it remains unclear if the league's MVP will play Sunday against the New Orleans Saints.

Newton took reps with the first-team offense after missing Monday night's game against Tampa Bay with a concussion.

Panthers coach Ron Rivera said Newton remains in the league's concussion protocol and it's too early to know his status for this week's game at the Superdome.

"He looked good and threw the ball pretty doggone well," Rivera said. "He was involved in the plays that we had scripted for him and handled those very well."

Rivera said now the team is waiting "with bated breath" to find out how Newton responds on Thursday when he reports to work following his first day of practice in nearly two weeks.

"It's all part of the concussion protocol," Rivera said.

Newton, who usually talks publicly on Wednesdays, was not available after practice.

Wearing a helmet and his red No. 1 practice jersey, Newton threw passes and joked with teammates in the huddle before taking snaps during the first 20 minutes of action that were open to the media. Newton threw the ball around and jogged during the half-speed portion of practice.

Carolina (1-4) is marred in a three-game losing streak.

But teammates said Newton's return—and the energy he brings with him to work—gave everyone a lift.

"Having the MVP back in your offense is a big deal," All-Pro center Ryan Kalil said. "It's tough especially the way that he's not been around here with the head injury. So anytime someone like that is able to come back you are very excited."

Added tight end Greg Olsen: "I think it was a good step for him. It's good to see him back and feeling good. Obviously we know how important he is to this team."

Panthers running back Jonathan Stewart, who has missed the last three games with a hamstring injury, also was back at practice on a limited basis. Like Newton, it's still too early in the week to know if he will play this week.

Left tackle Michael Oher (concussion), cornerback James Bradberry (toe) and defensive tackle Vernon Butler (ankle) remained out of practice. Defensive tackle Paul Soliai missed practice and underwent an x-ray on his foot.

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geles in the 43rd and 49th, respectively.

Paire got its two goals from Kaden Church and Robbie Schorr, who scored in the 14th and 41st minute.

MP United 4, Matansa 3

MP United nosed out Matansa to bag its second win in four games.

Go Sekiguchi drilled the go-ahead goal in the 63rd minute, while Benito Lolobeyong registered all three goals for Matansa.

Lolobeyong had his first in the 16th and the second in the 32nd to force a standoff at halftime. MP United recorded the two early goals in the first half with Oliver Lee hitting his target in the third minute and Rintaro Miyawaki following suit three minutes later.

Lolobeyon's third goal just two minutes into the second half put Matansa on top before MP United tied the match anew, thanks to Eun Syu Hahn's shot in the 55th. Eight minutes later, Sekiguchi broke the deadlock and MP United hung in there for the close win.

Kanoa 6, Shirley's 1

Kanoa eased past Shirley's to get its third victory.

Kirt Andon and Mikho Umali dropped two goals for Kanoa, which drew one goal apiece from Sebastian Manabat and Jhoey Noble. Andon scored first (nine minute) for Kanoa and also logged the team's last goal in the first half (27th). Manabat posted Kanoa's other goal in the opening 35 minutes of play as he lit up the board in the 13th minute.

In the second half, Kanoa nailed three goals in a span of four minutes with Umali getting his first in the 65 th and the second in the 69th. Noble registered his goal in the 67th minute.

The winless Shirley's avoided a shutout when Tyneth Santos converted his shot in the 66th minute.

GIRLS U15 Matansa 9, MP United 1

Matansa joined Shirley's and Kanoa in a three-way tie for the lead after whipping MP United in the second game in the girls U15 division.

Guinevere Borja stood out in Matansa's win after firing four goals. Sunny Woo and Angelica Sally chipped in two, while Aira May Ngalongalo added one for Matansa, which has a 3-0-1 card—the same mark Kanoa and Shirley's have.

MP United dropped to a 1-0-3 slate after making only one goal, courtesy of Gilliam Villagomez's shot just less than a minute into the first half.

Kanoa 2, Shirley's 1

In the first game, Paulyn Grace Joyce lifted Kanoa to an upset over the defending champion Shirley's.

Joyce earned her first goal in the 18th and handed Kanoa a 2-0 lead early in the second half with her second conversion in the 40th minute. Thereze Millare logged the lone goal for Shirley's in the 55th minute.

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seconds of the match.

Both Pelisamen and Lizama finished the game in double figures with the latter tallying 14 and the former adding 12. Dan Barcinas led the Ol'Aces with his 15 points.

Matt Duenas paced Duenas Compound with his 20 markers, but was held to 4 points in the fourth canto as they failed to complete their comeback bid. Ernest Duenas and Perry Inos combined for 31 markers with the latter registering 9 of his total output in the final frame to lead Duenas Compound's recovery. Douglas Schmidt also logged twin digits with his 12 markers, but struggled in the first three quarters, which the Ol'Aces dominated.

Duenas Compound's loss to the Ol'Aces came just a few days after the former got its fourth win following an 83-80 triumph over 5-Star Construction (2-3).

Matt Duenas exploded for 31 points in the victory, including 8 of his team's last 12 points. Schmidt chipped in 21. Jeff Munar had 23 for 5-Star Construction, which drew 18 markers from Michael Cabanas.

Meanwhile, in the second game last Wednesday, the Junior Ol'Aces snapped their two-game losing skid after whipping the depleted Chinese Association.

The Junior Ol'Aces had the win in the bag right at the end of the third period as they led by 53 points, 77-24. The Chinese Association fielded only seven players in the game and could not keep up with the young crew of the Junior Ol'Aces.

Wednesday Game

Ol'Aces 81— Barcinas 15, Lizama 14, Pelisamen 12, Santos 9, Iguel 9, Libuw 4, Deleon Guerrero 3, Nakashima 2.

Duenas Compound 77 — Matt Duenas 20, E. Duenas 17, Inos 14, Schmidt 12, Santos 2, Mostales 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-17, 41-28, 60-45, 81-77.

Monday Game

Duenas Compound 83 — Matt Duenas 31, Schmidt 21, E. Duenas 9, Inos 7, Manny Duenas 3, Eubanks 2, Santos 2, Del Rosario 2, R. Duenas 2.

5-Star Construction 80 — Munar 23, Cabanas 18, Fernando 12, Hernaez 8, Pineda 6, Pangelinan 3.

Scoring by quarters: 31-11, 47-36, 71-61, 83-80.

EXTENSION

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that the contract for the renovation project at the Ada Gym has been awarded to Misamis Construction and DPW is still waiting for the "responsibility determination"—a filled-out form to prove that the contractor has the means and ability to complete the contract in question.

"We will also request to expedite the paper works at the procurement and supply. It will be very difficult to meet the February deadline because besides the Ada Gym renovation, the baseball and softball fields and the track and field will also undergo repairs. We don't have enough materials here, so shipping time will also be an important factor to consider in completing these projects," Rogolifoi said.

NMASA got a $488,556 grant from FEMA and was obligated on Dec. 10, 2015 or more than four months after Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan and damaged the facilities at the sports complex.

"People have been asking when the repairs works will start because they also want to plan ahead with their events and look for alternative venues, so we're happy that we are moving forward with these projects. At least, we knew the contract has been awarded and we just need to request for fast-tracking the process," Rogolifoi added.

Notice to proceed

Rogolifoi also disclosed that a notice to proceed has been issued for the resurfacing project at the track and field facility and he expects the repair works to begin before the month ends.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. allocated NMSA Program Year 2014 CDBG Funds in the amount of $772,368 and Program Year 2015 CDBG Funds in the amount of $132,744 for the resurfacing project, while the Marianas Visitors Authority has also committed $250,000 to the facility's renovation. A portion of the FEMA funds NMSA got from CIP will also be used for the track.

The resurfacing project is needed for the facility to regain its Level II certification from the International Association of Athletics Federations.

If the repairs start this month, it will be perfect timing as Pacific Games Council officials will be on Saipan to get updates about the CNMI's preparation for hosting the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Micro Cup 2016 Warm-up Races

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas Outrigger Club paddlers wait for the start of the warm-up races for the Micro Cup 2016 held last Saturday at Kilili Beach.

Joshua Andrew, right, leads Saipan Paddling Club to the finish line.

Saipan Paddling Club coach Justin Andrew, left, shouts instructions to his teammates as they near the turn for the 1,500m sprint.

Napu Outrigger Canoe Club coach Jason Tarkong gives instruction to their mixed junior team before the start of the race.

Hoe Lokahi's mixed junior team paddlers head out to the course.

Napu Outrigger Canoe Club's mixed junior team is ahead against two other squads in the 1,500m sprint.

Saipan Paddling Club's mixed junior team members paddle back to the shore.

Saipan Paddling Club men's team members make a turn for the second of the three-lap race.

Utley lifts Dodgers to 6-5 win over Nats to force Game 5

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Sports

Judge refuses to declare mistrial in Rose rape case

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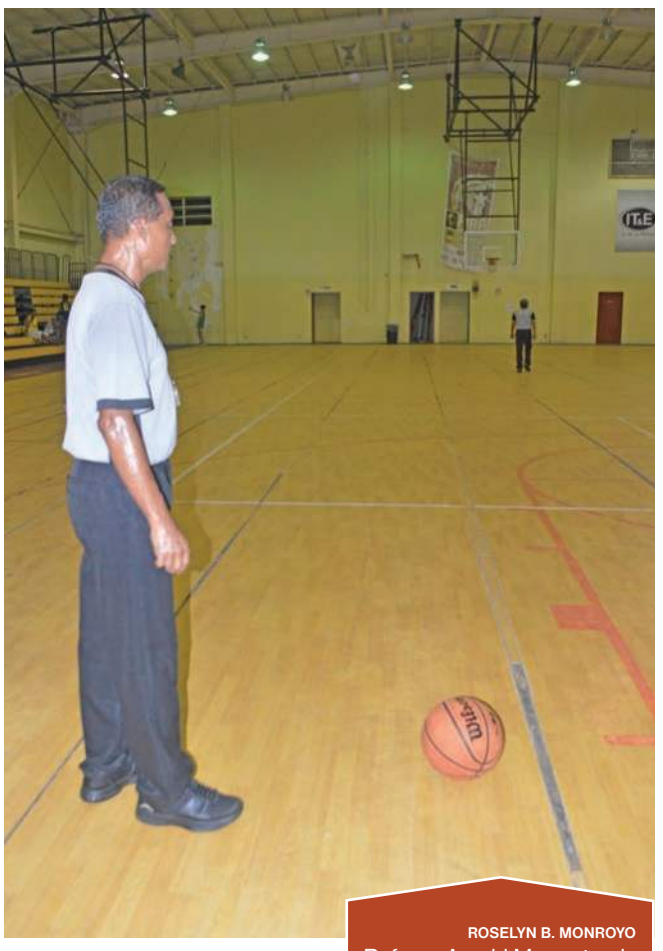
Ol'Aces, Junior Ol'Aces prevail

Extension for Oleai Sports Complex repairs sought



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Referee Arnold Mesa stands close to a damaged portion of the flooring of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium during a timeout in yesterday's game in the UFO caging.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With the repair work at the Oleai Sports Complex yet to start, the Northern Marianas Sports Association will request for an extension from Capital Improvement Project administrator Vicky Villagomez.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi said Villagomez told him that projects funded by Federal Emergency Management Agency should be done by February next year, but there is no way they could meet the deadline.

Rogolifoi, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, added that the contract for the repairs at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium has just been awarded early this month and documents needed to start the project are already with the Division of Procurement and Supply.

Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada, in a separate interview with *Saipan Tribune*, confirmed

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By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces and Junior Ol'Aces earned contrasting wins in the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Inaugural Men's Outdoor League last Wednesday night at the San Antonio court.

The Ol'Aces outlasted Duenas Compound, 81-77, in the battle of undefeated teams in the curtain raiser, while the Junior Ol'Aces crushed the Chinese Association, 107-34, in the second match.

With their victory, the Ol'Aces are now the only unbeaten squad in the nine-team field as they moved up to a 4-0 record. Duenas Compound dropped to a 4-1 card for second place in the team standings. The Junior Ol'Aces, on the other hand, improved to an even 2-2 mark and are in the middle of the leaderboard, while the Chinese Association are at the bottom with its 0-4 record.

The Ol'Aces squandered a double-digit lead in the fourth quarter, but managed to escape with the 4-point win after hitting crucial free throws in the homestretch. The Ol'Aces, who led by 15 at the end of the third canto, 60-45, scored 5 of their last 7 markers from the foul line. Freddie Pelisamen made three charities, while Jack Lizama knocked in a pair of insurance free throws. Lizama also drilled the Ol'Aces' lone field goal in the closing

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Junior Ol'Aces' Jeffrey Castro drives baseline against the Chinese Association's Xuankun Li during the fourth quarter of their game in the MIBF caging last Wednesday night at the San Antonio court.

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TanHoldings stays on top; MPU nips Matansa

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Matansa FC goalie picks up the ball kicked by MP United's Go Sekiguchi, left, during the second half of their boys U14 division game in the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Kobleville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club is still ahead in the team standings in the boys U14 division of the 2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League following a 6-2 victory over Paire FC last Saturday at the Kobleville Elementary School Field.

TanHoldings has a perfect 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record to pace Kanoa (3-0-1), Paire (2-0-2), MP United (2-0-2), Matansa (1-0-3), and Shirley's (0-0-4).

Kirro Batino, for the second straight time, led TanHoldings' fourth consecutive win after knocking in a pair of goals. He scored the first (26th minute) and last goals (61st) of the division leader. Four other TanHoldings players hit the board against Paire with Mark Esalan finding the back of the net in the 27th minute, John Paul Cruz in the 35th, and John Guiller Canape and Aloy Zeus An-

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